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**HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS  
RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY**

Compiled by  
McAllen Genealogical Society  
and  
Hidalgo County Historical Society

Published by  
Hidalgo County Historical Commission  
Edinburg, TX  
1987

# RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

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### Ranch Cemeteries

Symbol	Cemetery Name	Page Number
ANC	Anacuitas	
ASD	Asadores	
BLL	Balli	
BZN	Bazan	
BNV	Benavides	
BRW	Brewster	
BUR	Las Burras	
CMP	Campacuas	
CPT	Capote	
CRM	El Carmen	
CVZ	Cavazos	
CIB	Cibolo	
DES	El Desierto	
EBA	Ebanos	
GAR	Garza	
GRN	Granjeno	
GUZ	Guzman	
HND	Handy	
HVN	Havana	
IMM	Immaculate Conception	
JAC	Jackson Ranch Church	
JES	Jesus Maria	
LAG	Laguna Seca (Las Playas)	
LMT	La Lomita	
LNG	Longoria	
NIN	Niño Jesus de Praga	
NOG	Nogales	
NOV	Los Novillos	
NUL	Null	

RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

RANCH CEMETERIES OF HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

PEN	Penitas
RLM	Relampago
RET	Retama
ROS	Rosario
RUC	El Rucio
SJS	San Jose
SMS	San Manuel (Chapa)
SPA	San Pedro
SPN	San Pedro North
SPW	San Pedro West
SAW	Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge
SNT	Santa Anita
SGT	Santa Guadalupe Torero and Lane
SMN	Santa Monica
SRN	Santa Rita (new)
SRO	Santa Rita (old)
SVV	Santo Valdez and Valdez Family
STO	Stockholm
TAB	Tabasco
TOL	Toluca
VLD	Valdez
WEB	Webber
ZAC	Zacatal ( <del>Rudyville</del> )

Index

# RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## PREFACE

The cemeteries listed in this book, when examined as folk graveyards, contain a wealth of Christian and pre-Christian symbols, fascinating to the folklorist.

Texas ranch cemeteries accommodate the wealthy landowner and the men and women who worked the land, as well as frequently, remains of some poor soul whose relatives had no other place to bury.

Many Hidalgo County ranch cemeteries have bare or scraped earth gravesites. Fresh earth is mounded over the gravesite annually, suggesting a new burial.

Most graves face east, and have head stones. Graves are decorated with such objects as shells, pottery, vases and flowers. Hidalgo County cemeteries may be planned with rows of crinum lilies, but other introduced plantings are rare. Native trees and bushes grow where they have sprung up.

Many family plots are enclosed with bricks or low cement curbs. Husbands are buried on the right or south side.

Many tombstones are homemade, of cement, some imbedded decorations such as marbles, tile or broken crockery, and the inscription may be scratched in. Tombstones often have simple rounded style or may be surmounted with a cross. Humbler folk have simple wooden crosses, or sometimes pipe crosses.

Traditionally, the Mexican Americans scrape the earth bare over a grave. Annual graveyard cleaning is traditional on All Souls Day, when gravesites are cleared, fresh or new plastic flower wreaths are placed or hung on the graves.

Symbolism of the broken pottery is the shattered life, a survival of West Africa. Shells appear, a custom originating in Europe, as a symbol of the mother fertility goddess, or great female diety, whose other symbols include the rose and the dove, some of whose duties were to oversee the dead.

Ancient Mediterranean practice of placing shells on graves reached Texas by way of Spain and Mexico. The shell is a symbol of Saint James (through pilgrimage sites) and the Virgin Mary. "In Mexico and south Texas, many Mexican graves are decorated with shells, the ancient fertility/rebirth symbolism."

Tombstones, rounded or pointed top. Many Inscriptions are incorrectly spelled.

The editors have made no attempt to correct the spelling copied from the tombstones, and they are presented as reported by the compilers.

# RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## FOREWORD

One of the objectives of the Hidalgo County Historical Society is the preservation of county history. Much of the social, economic, and military history of the early days of Hidalgo County is reflected in its tombstones, some of which antedate the founding of the County in 1852.

Before the coming of the railroad at the turn of the century, there were no cities (except Hidalgo) and no municipal cemeteries. Ranch owners provided burial grounds for their families and villagers. When the property was sold, the burial grounds were reserved for use as family cemeteries.

Many tombstones were homemade, with inscriptions scratched into the wood or cement crosses. In the following pages, tombstone inscriptions have been copied as they appear on the markers, and no attempt has been made to correct obvious errors of spelling or inconsistent dates. Where appropriate, the compiler's comments appear in brackets.

Traditionally, Mexican American descendants of the early ranchers still clean and decorate the family plots on All Souls Day and at various other religious holidays. Frequently they scrape the earth bare and mound it, leaving offerings of colorful plastic or natural flowers.

Forty-six ranch cemeteries have been included in this study. Persons knowing of other burial grounds outside city limits are asked to inform the Hidalgo County Historical Society, so this listing may be updated. A second volume of early municipal cemeteries is planned.

Small crosses decorated with flowers may be seen along the highways of Hidalgo County. Usually these are not grave markers, but indicate the site where some lost his life. In Mexican folklore, the soul lingers at the spot where it left the body, and the marker is a memorial. These are not included in this survey.

With a number of people working on the project, there is a variance in the style in which the cemeteries have been listed. Some of the cemeteries are laid out in no recognizable pattern, and an attempt to impose consistent order would be futile. Accordingly, we have left the various numbering schemes to the discretion of the compiler.

We hope that our effort in publishing this record of ranch cemeteries will further research into county history and genealogy.

RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

Frances Watt Isbell  
Chairperson  
Cemetery Committee  
Hidalgo County Historical Society

Weslaco, Texas  
16 March 1984

RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

**DEDICATION**



# RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members of the McAllen Genealogical Society began a census of Hidalgo County Cemeteries as a Bicentennial Project in 1976. They worked on this project until 1980, by which time they had identified and inventoried 46 rural cemeteries.

Members of the Cemetery Committee were Joe Fallin, Ray Hunt, Wilma Kosar, Edward Miner, Dolores Rednour, Virginia G. Stinson and Dale Swartzmiller. Family members and friends have also assisted in the project.

This uncompleted project was turned over to the Hidalgo County Historical Society in 1980. At this time Fran Watt Isbell, of Mercedes, Texas took on the responsibility of its completion. Without her unrelenting persistence over the next seven years this project would never have come to fruition. She was ably assisted with this project by Mrs. Goldsby Goza, also of Mercedes. These two individuals continued transcribing new ranch cemeteries which were identified after this project was turned over to them. They also returned to many of the already-transcribed cemeteries to check and expand information collected earlier.

Later both Goldsby Goza and Virginia Haynie, of Edinburg, helped document many of the Hidalgo County cemeteries through photographs and slides. In general, they took overviews of the cemeteries and photographed outstanding and unusual, though regionally typical, graves.

Indexes were compiled by George Gause. Goldsby Goza translated Spanish inscriptions. Fran Isbell edited the material and George Gause prepared this final computer-generated typescript.

To all those who gave generously of their time and skills to fight their way through brush and rough fields and struggled with high grass and angry insects, unmapped roads and crumbling tombstones, to find and record our early ranch cemeteries, our heartfelt thanks.

Thanks to the Hidalgo County Historical Commission for providing partial funding for the printing of the preliminary edition of this survey. Thanks also to the Hidalgo County Historical Society for their cooperation in having this book published and distributed, thereby making this material available to the public.

The Hidalgo County Historical Commission

RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS-PHOTOGRAPHS

Campacuas Cemetery.....	
Capote Cemetery.....	
El Desierto Cemetery.....	
Los Ebanos Cemetery.....	
Granjeno Cemetery.....	
Jackson Methodist Church Cemetery.....	
Laguna Seca Cemetery.....	
La Lomita, statue of the Virgin Mary.....	
Niño Jesus de Praga, showing lich gate and chapel.....	
Penitas Cemetery, showing arch over entrance.....	
Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, showing boveda.....	

# RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## LIST OF MAPS

Hidalgo County.....	
Puerto Rico-Cipres Area (northeast Hidalgo County).....	
(list individual cemeteries)	
San Manuel area (north central Hidalgo County).....	
(list individual cemeteries)	
Southeast Hidalgo County.....	
(list individual cemeteries)	
Southwest Hidalgo County.....	
(list individual cemeteries)	

RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Jordan, Terry G. The Roses So Red and the Lilies So Fair.

"Southern Folk Cemeteries in Texas," pp. 227-258. Southwestern Historical Quarterly, January 1980. 83:3

GLOSSARY OF SPANISH WORDS USED ON HEADSTONES

abuelo/a = grandfather/mother  
 afligidos = sorrowing  
 ahijado/a = adopted child, godchild  
 años = years  
 bóveda = crypt (above ground)  
 cuñado/a = brother/sister-in-law  
 D E P = descance en paz = R I P (rest in peace)  
 de parte de = from, by  
 días = days  
 E P D = en paz descance = R I P (rest in peace)  
 edad = age  
 esposo/a = husband/wife  
 falleció = died  
 familiares = relatives  
 hijastro/a = stepchild  
 hijo/a = child (son or daughter)  
 hijo/a adoptivo/a = adopted child (son or daughter)  
 hijo/a de crianza = foster child (son or daughter)  
 hnos = hermanos/as = brothers/sisters  
 jamás le olvidan = will never forget  
 meses = months  
 murió = died  
 nació = born  
 nieto/a = grandson/granddaughter  
 nuera = daughter-in-law  
 padres = parents  
 padrinos = godparents  
 papás = padres = parents  
 piadoso = pious, religious, merciful  
 político = in-law  
 póstumo = posthumous  
 progenitores = parents  
 Q E P D = que en paz descance = R I P (rest in peace)  
 Rdo = recuerdo = memorial, monument, stone  
 sencillo homenaje = simple or sincere tribute (homage)  
 seno = ceno = bosom  
 sobrino/a = nephew/niece  
 sueño = sleep  
 velar = hold wake, mourn  
 yerno = son-in-law  
 viuda de = widow of

\* = Born

+ = Died

# RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## COMMON MISSPELLINGS FOUND ON HEADSTONES

auela, avuela = abuela (grandmother)  
belan = velan (mourn) (B and V often interchanged)  
bolbio = volvio (returned)  
cenisas = cenizas (ashes)  
Cenobeba = Genoveva (Genevieve, Christian name)  
dea = da (give)  
emacion = emanacion (emanation)  
enriamos = enviamos (we send)  
fallesieron = falleciernon (died)  
fulor = fulgor (brilliance)  
he = e, y (and)  
hedad = edad (age)  
hera = era (was)  
hespoza = esposa (wife)  
horan = oran (pray)  
jijos = hijos (children)  
llacen = yacen (lie)  
mihiha = mi hija (my daughter)  
mirado/mirada - mirado = seen (verb)  
- mirada = look, glance (noun)  
pas = paz (peace)  
Plasido = Plácido  
qui = aquí (here)  
R and V are often confused  
seallen = se hallen (are found)  
to = tu (your)  
tues = tus (your, plural)  
un/una un is masculine/una is feminine (one)  
veintinueva = veintinueve (29)

Proper names are often misspelled

Ancisco = Anciso  
Ascenion = Ascención  
Basquez = Vasquez  
Cerna = Serna  
Gasinta = Jacinta  
Gusmán = Guzmán  
Ignasio = Ignacio  
Quenara = Genara  
Sipriano = Cipriano  
Visente = Vicente

**COMMON SPANISH INSCRIPTIONS-EPITAPHS**

Free Translations - The gravestones were transcribed exactly as they appeared.

JEHOVA ES MI PASTOR Y CON EL NADA ME FALTA. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

RECUREDO DE SU ESPOSA E HIJOS E HIJAS. A memorial from his wife and sons and daughters.

HIJA, DUERME EL SUENO ETERNO MIENTRAS TUS PADRES Y HERMANOS LLORAN TU ETERNA AUSENCIA. Daughter, sleep the eternal sleep while your parents and brothers weep for your eternal absence. (Los Ebanos, No. 142)

SU ESPOSA E JIJOS DEDICAN ESTE RECUERDO A SU MEMORIA. His wife and children dedicate this monument to his memory. (Los Ebanos, No. 151)

LO HEMOS AMADO MUCHO Y NO LO DEJAREMOS HASTA QUE CON NUESTRAS LAGRIMAS Y ORACIONES LO INTRODUCAMOS EN LA CASA DE NUESTRO SENOR. We have loved him much, and will not abandon him until with our tears and prayers we present him in the house of Our Lord. (Los Ebanos, No. 160).

NO LLORES. YA VOY CON DIOS OS ESPERARE EN EL CIELO. JESUS MISERICORDIOSO DADLE EL DESCANSO ETERNO. Don't weep. I am going to be with God, and will await you in heaven. Merciful Jesus, give him eternal rest. (Los Ebanos, No. 162)

ENVIANOS DESDE EL CIELO CONSUELO Y RESIGNACION A TU ESPOSA...Y HIJOS QUE LLORAN TO AUSENCIA. Send from heaven comfort and resignation to his wife...and children who mourn his absence. (Los Ebanos, No. 178)

TE AUSENTASTE DEL MUNDO ES VERDAD, MAS TU PARTIDA FUE PARA ESTAR MAS CERCA DE DIOS Y VELAR POR LOS QUE TE LLORAN EN LA TIERRA. You left the world, it is true, but your departure was to be nearer God and to wait for those who mourn you on earth. (Los Ebanos, No. 297)

ESTIMADO EN LOS OJOS DE DIOS LA MUERTE DE LOS SANTOS. Esteemed in the eyes of God, the death of the blessed. (Los Ebanos, No. 374)

CON FECHA 5 DE AGOSTO DE 1876 AQUI 11acen LAS CENISAS DE D. CRISTOVAL LEAL FALLECIO E 43 ANOS DE EDAD DEJANDO GRATOS RECUERDOS COMO BUEN ESPOSO Y FIEL CIUDADANO. With date of August 5, 1876 here lie the ashes of Don Cristobal Leal dead at the age of 43, leaving behind kind memories as a good husband and loyal citizen. (Santa Ana, No. )

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EL ALMA DEL SER QUE YA NO VEMOS PERO QUE VIVE EN NUESTROS CORAZONES HASTA EL DIA QUE NOS UNAMOS EN EL RIENO DE LOS CIELOS. SAGRADO CORAZON DE JESUS RUEGA POR EL. The soul of the being whom we no longer see but who lives in our hearts until the day we shall be united in the Kingdom of Heaven. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for him. (San Manuel, Second Row, No. 5)

TE DEDICAMOS ESTE HUMILDE RUCUERDO A TU MEMORIA LOS QUE TANTO TE QUISIMOS. REGAMOS DE LAGRIMA Y FLORES TO ESPULCRO ALLA EN TU TRONO RUEGA POR TUES PADRES QUE BELAN POR TI. We dedicate to you this humble memorial to your memory, we who loved you so. We water your grave with tears and flowers. There on your throne, pray for your parents who keep watch over you. (Los Ebanos, No. 379)

FUE UN ANGEL QUE DE CIELO DECENDIO MAS VIO QUE AQUI NO HERA EL CIELO YA SU PATRIA SE BOLVIO. She was an angel who descended from heaven, but she saw that heaven was not here, and she returned to her homeland. (Los Ebanos, No. 397)

LA LEY DEL SABIO ES MANANTIAL DE VIDA PARA APARTARSE DE LOS LAZOS DE LA MUERTE. The law of the wise man is the fountain of life to escape the ties (ropes) of death. (Los Ebanos, No. 433)

SU MUERTO FUE TRANQUILA VIENDOS EN SU DULCE SEMBALENTE EL REFLEJO DE LA SERENIDAD DE SU ALMA. Her death was peaceful, showing in her sweet face the reflection of the serenity of her soul. (Havana, No. 192)

BAJA ESTA MARMELEA Y SEPULCRAL MORADA yacen LOS RESTOS DEL FINADO D. ANTONIO CANO QUE FALLECIO DEL 12 DE FEBRERO DE 1877 EN EL R. DE GUADALUPE TEXAS A LOS 65 ANOS, SIETE MESES Y VIENTENUEVA DIAS DE SU EDAD. LA ESPOSA E HIJOS DEL FINADO LE CONSAGRAN ESTA MEMORIA COMO EMACION DEL CONYUGAL Y FILIAL AMOR CON QUE VENERAN SUS CENIZAS. Under this marble and sepulchral abode lie the remains of the deceased Don Antonio Cano who died February 12, 1877 at Guadalupe Ranch, Texas, at 65 years, 7 months, and 29 days of age. The wife and children of the deceased dedicate this memorial to him as an expression of the conjugal and filial love with which they venerate his ashes. (Campacuas, No. N233)

MURIO TRANQUILA EN LA MANANA FRIA SIN UNA QUEJA Y LA MIRADO AL CIELO PERO EN LOS SUYOS CUANTO DESCONUELO! DESDE AQUEL TRISTE, INOLVIDABLE DIA.

SI ERA ELLA EN NUESTRO HOGAR, NUESTRA ALEGRIA DE TODOS LA VIRTUDES UN MODELO; SI ERA ELLA NUESTRO ENCANTO Y NUESTRO ANHELO PORQUE TE LA LLEVASTE MUERTE IMPIA?

FALTABA ACASO EN LA CELESTE ALTURA UN ESTRELLA DE NITIDO FULOR? O UNA VIRGEN MAS CANDIDA Y MAS PURA? JUSTICIERA ES TU LEY, PERO AH! SENOR--ESTRELLA O VIRGEN TU SENTENCIA ES DURA PORQUE NOS LLENA EN ALMA DE DOLOR.



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She died peacefully in the cold morning without a complaint and with her eyes turned to heaven. But in her family, such desolation Since that sad, unforgettable day.

She was the happiness in our home, a model of all the virtues. She was our delight and our joy. Why hast thou taken her away, cruel Death?

Perhaps in Heaven they needed a star of great brilliance or a maiden most innocent and pure? Justice is Thy law, but oh! God--star or maiden Thy judgement is difficult because grief fills our souls. (Los Novillos, No. )

# RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES IN HIDALGO COUNTY

Municipal cemeteries are not included in this tabulation. Most of these were established since the founding of Hidalgo County in 1852 and death records should be available in the county clerk's office, city offices, cemetery or funeral homes' offices. A transcription of municipal cemeteries for Hidalgo County is planned.

CITY	NAME OF CEMETERY	LOCATION
Alamo	St. Joseph's Cemetery	South Tower Road
Donna	Donna Cemetery	South Avenue between 13th and 15th Street
Edcouch	Anahuac Cemetery	Mile 18 North and Mile 4 West
Edinburg	Brushwood Cemetery	Schunior Street, 0.25 miles east of US 281
Edinburg	County Pauper Cemetery	Tex-Mex Subdivision
Edinburg	Edinburg City Cemetery	Near Water Treatment Plant
Edinburg	Hillcrest Memorial Park	Schunior Street, 0.25 miles east of US 281
Edinburg	Negro Cemetery	Just North of Brushwood and Hillcrest Cemetery
Hargill	Hargill Cemetery	0.6 miles south of Hargill
Hidalgo	Hidalgo Cemetery	Third Street, off US 281
La Joya	La Joya Cemetery	Leo and Garza Streets, between 5th and 6th Streets
McAllen	La Piedad Cemetery	1801 Wichita Street near airport
McAllen	Roselawn Perpetual Care Burial Park	1201 South Main Street
McAllen	Temple Emanuel	South Ware Road at city limits
McAllen	Valley Memorial Gardens	Taylor Road at Mile 2 North Road
Mercedes	Bautista Cemetery	Anacuitas Street, 0.75 miles west of Texas Avenue
Mercedes	Ebony Grove	0.25 miles west of FM 491 and 1.5 miles south of Business 83
Mercedes	Emmanuel Cemetery	Anacuitas Street, 0.75 miles west of Texas Avenue
Mercedes	Our Lady of Mercy	Anacuitas Street, 0.74 miles west of Texas Avenue
Mission	Laurel Hill Cemetery	West 18th Street at North Holland Avenue
Mission	San Jose Cemetery	South Steward Road, 0.5 miles south of Expressway 83
Pharr	Guadalupe Cemetery	West Juarez and Bell Streets
Pharr	Magic Valley Memorial Gardens	North Sugar Road, north of Nolana Loop
Pharr	Palm Valley Memorial Gardens	North Sugar Road
San Juan	San Juan City Cemetery	South I Road
Weslaco	Highland Memorial Park	South Texas Avenue and Mill 11 3/4 North Road
Weslaco	Weslaco City Cemetery	10th and Iowa Streets

# RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## RANCH CEMETERIES IN HIDALGO COUNTY

This is a comprehensive listing of all known ranch cemeteries in Hidalgo County, Texas which are surveyed within this book. Most of these cemeteries were established since the founding of Hidalgo County in 1852. Later death records should be available in the county clerk's office, city offices, cemetery or funeral homes' offices. A separate listing of municipal cemeteries within the county are also included within this listing.

NAME OF CEMETERY	LOCATION	DATE OF INTERMENTS
Anacuitas Cemetery	In north Mercedes, north of Expressway 83, west side of FM 491	1928-1976
Asadores Cemetery	middle of Harwick Ranch, 1,000 feet Northwest of Intersection of US 281 and FM 493	1912-1973
Balli Cemetery	South of Eurestes Banco, between Donna and Weslaco: In sugar field with overgrown vines.	Unknown
Bazan Cemetery	East of Puerto Rico on Highway 1017	1915-1968
Benavides Cemetery	1/2 Mile South of Sullivan City	1968-1975
Brewster Cemetery	1 Mile West of Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, 0.2 Miles south of northwest corner of refuge.	1898-1970s
Las Burras Cemetery	East of Willacy Main Canal, 0.5 miles south of FM 491 northeast of La Villa	1905-1952
Campacuas Cemetery	Mile Nine (9) Road Northwest and Mile (1) West	1863-1979
El Carmen Cemetery	2.6 Miles North FM 2812 on Brushline Road and 1/4 Mile West on property of Mrs. Emma Cavazos	1909-1980
Capote Cemetery	Old Military Highway East of US 281 and south of the canal about 0.2 miles	1897-1975
El Cibolo Cemetery	1.5 miles east of US 281 on El Cibolo Road	1924-1981
El Desierto Cemetery	on Ranch of Rafael Garza north and west of the Laguna Seca Cemetery a mile or two	1896-1972
Los Ebanos	Drive through town as though you were going to the International Ferry. It will be to your right as you approach the river.	1912-1973
Garza Cemetery	Northeast of Puerto Rico	1967-1975
Granjeno Cemetery	North side of FM 494 West of town; Granjeno, Texas	1916-1975
Guzman Cemetery	Approx. 200 yards west of bridge road going to the International Bridge. 1.2 miles south of US 281; Progreso, Texas	1904-1974
Havana Cemetery	On south side of US 83; 1.8 miles west of La Joya	1921-1975
Handy Cemetery	1 1/4 miles west of Webber Cemetery on old Military Road. West of FM 1423	1925-1977
Immaculate Conception	1/2 mile south of McCook on FM 2058	1898-1971

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Jackson Methodist Church	1 mile east of Fay's Corners on south US 281	1913-1976
Jesus Maria Cemetery	north of Hargill almos on Hidalgo-Willacy County line. 1.1 miles east of FM 493 on State Highway 186	1913-1978
Laguna Seca Ranch	Located on the Ranch North of Edinburg	1913-1976
La Lomita Cemetery	According to a 1908 map it was located in Porcion 57, it was never found. Moved to San Antonio in the Central Dioscese Headquarters Cemetery	1934-1942
Longoria Cemetery	East of Puerto Rico Avenue off Highway 1017	1963-1972
Niño Jesus de Praga #2	South Miller Road and east of 3250 on La Noria Cardenas Ranch	1920-1976
Nogales Cemetery	On Old Military Highway and south of Weslaco about 700 ft. south of US 281, 250 ft. west of FM 88	No Dates
Los Novillos Ranch	1 Grave only, just outside of the southeast corner of the ranch. North of FM 1017.	1926
Null Cemetery	North of La Noria Cardenenia Ranch, west of US 281 off Miller Road.	1965-1973
Peñitas Cemetery	No Location Given	1901-1975
Relampago Cemetery	Rancho Toluca Road, 1 mile west of junction with US 281, south about 500 ft. on a dirt road to fenced lot	1866-1975
Rosario Ranch	North of Old Military Road about 3/4 mile east of FM 1015 South of Mercedes.	1919-1977
El Rucio Cemetery	1 mile east of US 281; 1.8 miles north of San Manuel.	1854-1973
San Jose Cemetery	Mile 1/2 west and mile 15 3/4 North, close to transmitter tower south of La Villa on Base Line Road. (TX 491)	1903-1940
San Manuel Cemetery	1/4 mile east of US 281 San Manuel	1912-1976
San Pedro	.72 miles south of US 281, on a dirt road, 0.7 miles east of FM 88	1926-1974
San Pedro North	0.8 miles east FM 88 on 281 about 600 ft. north of highway and west of drain ditch under a double pole power line.	1911-1934
San Pedro West	Intersection of FM 88 and US 281. Go west on 281 about 0.1 mile to a dirt road, then south over canal and into an open field about 500 ft.	No Dates
Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge	No Location Given	1916-1929
Santa Anita		
Santa Monica	Northeast of Puerto Rico	1928-1975
Santo Valdez	Northeast of Puerto Rico	1968
Stockholm Cemetery	1/8 mile north of Hwy. 491. 1 mile east of the junction of 491 and 1422	1927-1969
Tabasco Cemetery	No Location Given	No Dates
Toluca Cemetery	At Toluca Ranch, 1/4 mile east FM 1015 on Toluca Ranch Road, 1.1 miles south of US 281 south of Mercedes.	1927
Webber Cemetery	Old Military Road west FM 1423	1924-1975

RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY - HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

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## Cemetary Check List

This is the requirements issued by The Texas Historical (Marker) Commission.

1. What is the present name of the cemetary? Why is it so named? Has it other names? If so, explain each name, giving dates and reasons for changes.
2. Where is the cemetary located? Is, or was, this location significant.?
3. Who is the first person known to have been buried here? By whom? Give dates on his or her gravestone, if it exists, and other pertinent details about the individual.
4. What are the names and dates on the earliest existing grave stone.? Give pertinent details about this individual ( If person is same as # 3, so note.
5. If the land was deeded for use as a cemetary, by whom was it deeded? To Whom? When? If it was donated, who was the donor? To whom was it donated ? Is the donor buried here? Give a short personal history, including birth and death dates.
6. Are the persons buried here mainly from one family or ethnic group, etc.? Did an epidemic, war, or natural disaster account for a significant number of the burials.? Approximately how many graves are there?
7. Has the cemetary been associated with a church, school, or family? What is the nature and duration of the association?
8. Is there a governing body in charge of maintenance? Where, when, and by whom was it organizwd? Is the cemetary currently in use? If not, when and why did it close?
9. Include other pertinent information or anecdotes which may not have been covered by this check list.
10. Attach a bibliography or list of published or printed material, a list of oral interview sources and dates, and the name(s) and address(es) of the author(s) of this historical narrative.

# RANCH CEMETERIES OF HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## PREFACE

*Scraped of  
Book: here*

The cemeteries listed in this book, when examined as folk graveyards, contain a wealth of Christian and pre-Christian symbols, fascinating to the folklorist.

Texas ranch cemeteries accommodate the wealthy landowner and the men and women who worked the land, as well as, frequently, remains of some poor soul whose relatives had no other place to bury.

Many Hidalgo County ranch cemeteries have bare or scraped earth gravesites. Fresh earth is mounded over the gravesite annually, suggesting a new burial.

Most graves face east, and have head stones. Graves are decorated with such objects as shells, pottery, vases and flowers. Hidalgo County cemeteries may be planned with rows of crinum lilies, but other introduced plantings are rare. Native trees and bushes grow where they have sprung up.

Many family plots are enclosed with bricks or low cement curbs. Husbands are buried on the right or south side.

Many tombstones are homemade, of cement, some imbedded decorations such as marbles, tile or broken crockery, and the inscription may be scratched in. Tombstones often have simple rounded style or may be surmounted with a cross. Humbler folk have simple wooden crosses, or sometimes pipe crosses.

Traditionally, the Mexican Americans scrape the earth bare over a grave. Annual graveyard cleaning is traditional on All Souls Day, when gravesites are cleared, fresh or new plastic flower wreaths are placed or hung on the graves.

Symbolism of the broken pottery is the shattered life, a survival of West Africa. Shells appear, a custom originating in Europe, as a symbol of the mother fertility goddess, or great female diety, whose other symbols include the rose and the dove, some of whose duties was to oversee the dead.

Ancient Mediterranean practice of placing shells on graves reached Texas by way of Spain and Mexico. The shell is a symbol of Saint James (through pilgrimage sites) and the Virgin Mary. "In Mexico and south Texas, many Mexican graves are decorated with shells, the ancient fertility/rebirth symbolism."

Tombstones, rounded or pointed top. Many inscriptions are incorrectly spelled.

The editors have made no attempt to correct the spelling copied from the tombstones, and they are presented as reported by the compilers.



R A N C H   C E M E T E R I E S   O F   H I D A L G O   C O U N T Y ,   T E X A S

Frances Watt Isbell  
Chairperson  
Cemetery Committee  
Hidalgo County Historical Society

Weslaco, Texas  
16 March 1984

# RANCH CEMETERIES OF HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members of the McAllen Genealogical Society began a census of Hidalgo County Cemeteries as a Bicentennial Project in 1976. They worked on this project until 1980, by which time they had identified and inventoried 46 rural cemeteries.

Members of the Cemetery Committee were Joe Fallin, Ray Hunt, Wilma Kosar, Edward Miner, Dolores Rednour, Virginia G. Stinson and Dale Swartzmiller. Family members and friends have also assisted in the project.

This uncompleted project was turned over to the Hidalgo County Historical Society in 1980. At this time Fran Watt Isbell, of Mercedes, Texas took on the responsibility of its completion. Without her unrelenting persistence over the next five years this project would never have come to fruition. She was ably assisted with this project by Mrs. Goldsby Goza, also of Mercedes. These two individuals continued transcribing new ranch cemeteries which were identified after this project was turned over to them. They also returned to many of the already-transcribed cemeteries to check and expand information collected earlier.

Later both Goldsby Goza and Virginia Haynie, of Edinburg, helped document many of the Hidalgo County cemeteries through photographs and slides. In general, they took overviews of the cemeteries and photographed outstanding and unusual, though regionally typical, graves.

To all those who gave generously of their time and skills to fight their way through brush and rough fields and struggled with high grass and angry insects, unmapped roads and crumbling tombstones, to find and record our early ranch cemeteries, our heartfelt thanks.

Indexes were compiled by ??? and others. Goldsby Goza translated Spanish inscriptions. Fran Isbell edited the material and George Gause prepared this final computer-generated typescript.

The Hidalgo County Historical Society Book Sales Committee cooperated in having this book published and thereby making this material available to the public.

The Hidalgo County Historical Society

TO

LILY TORREZ

FRAN ISBELL

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SUBJECT

GRANGENO CEMETERY CENSUS

DATE 1 / 31 / 85

**MESSAGE** This is a draft (not proofread) of the Grangeno Cemetery  
tombstone inscriptions. Please make it available to Mrs. Pedro Barrera  
(Elena) who is working on a historical marker for the cemetery.

When she is through with it, you may keep. Hidalgo County  
Historical Commission will publish a complete index by 1986.

SIGNED

*Fran***REPLY**

SIGNED

DATE / /

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS  
RANCH CEMETERIES  
TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS

PART I

Compiled by the McAllen Genealogical Society Cemetery Committee.

Dale Swartzmiller, Chairman  
Joe Fallin  
Ray Hunt  
Wilma Kosar  
Edward Miner  
Dolores Rednour  
Virginia G. Stinson

PUBLISHED

By

HIDALGO COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
EDINBURG, TEXAS  
1979

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- B. Those in the central part of the county.
- c. Those on the north side of the county. All are north of FM 490. a. Those in San Manuel area b. thos in Puerto Rico Cipres area.

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Fran

Please add your idhar as you  
work with cemeteries.  
G



24 September 1986

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

RANCH CEMETERY SURVEY

UNIFORM TERMINOLOGY

- (Cement cross.)
- (Metal cross, illegible.)
- (Stone marker, illegible.)
- (Wood cross, illegible.)
  
- (Stone b6veda, illegible.)
- (Brick b6veda, no inscription.)
  
- (Double marker, left side.)
- (Double marker, right side.)
  
- (Grave with no inscription.)
- (Marker, illegible and broken.)
- (Funeral home marker, illegible.)
- (In wrought iron fence.)
- (Photograph.)
- (Possible grave with no inscription.)

Please add your ideas as you work with cemeteries. Goldsby



24 September 1986

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- (Funeral home marker, illegible.)
- (In wrought iron fence.)
- (Photograph.)
- (Possible grave with no inscription.)

SAN

Garza, Jose Ruiz (18XX-19XX)

CAM-K-177  
KK

18

10

3

Solis de Garcia, Alejandra ✓✓ (XXXX-XXXX)

Garcia, Alejandra Solis de ✓✓ (XXXX-XXXX) 7

la Garza Falcon  
Villercall de ~~Villercall~~, Maria Isabela

60 / 10 / 3

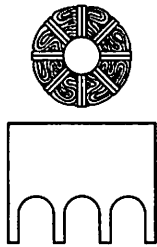
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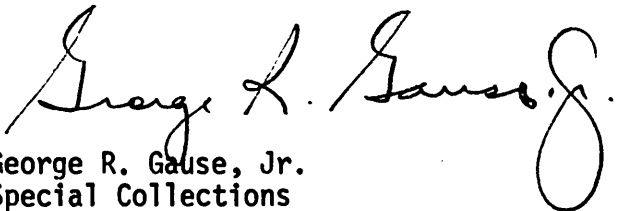
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Dear Sirs:

Please send me a catalog (if available) which describes highway maps and other maps which are available from you. Also I would appreciate your sending me five (5) order forms for ordering county highway maps.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,



George R. Gause, Jr.  
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Librarian

FREE TRANSLATION OF INSCRIPTIONS

1. JEHOVAH ES MI PASTOR Y CON EL NADA ME FALTA  
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. DUERME EL SUENO ETERNO  
Sleep the eternal sleep
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A memorial from his wife and sons and daughters.
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and prayers we present him in the house of our Lord. p. I3. I60
7. Don't weep. I am going to be with God, and will await you in heaven.  
Merciful God, give him eternal rest. p I3, # I62
8. Send (us) from heaven, comfort and resignation to his wife...who  
mourn his absence. p I4, # I78
9. You left the world, it is true, but your departure was to be nearer  
God and to wait for those who mourn you on earth. p 20, # 297
10. Esteemed in the eyes of God. p 23, # 374
11. Wife, sleep the eternal sleep, while your husband and children  
weep. p II0, #3, Row I2
12. Blessed are the pur in heart, etc. p II7, #I3
13. Here lie the ashes of Cristobeal Leal, Aug. 5. I876, dead at age of  
43, leaving behind kind memories as a good husband and loyal citizen.  
P I22, Big Boveda

# COMMON MISSPELLINGS

auela, avuela=abuela

belan=velan (mourn) (B and V often interchanged)

Cenobeba=Genovèvae (Genevieve, Christian name)

dea=da

enriamos=enviamos

fallesieron=falleciernon

he=e, y (and)

hedad=edad (age)

hespoza=esposa (wife)

horan=oran (pray) (~~pl10, #3 h could have been ll~~)

llacen=yacen (lie)

mihiha=mi hija (my daughter)

pas=paz (peace)

Plasido=placido

qui=aqui (here)

R and V are often confused

seallen=se hallen (are found)

## GLOSSARY OF SPANISH WORDS

abuelo/a = grandfather/mother  
afligidos = sorrowing  
ahijado(a) = adopted child, godchild  
anos = years  
boveda = crypt (above ground)  
cunador (a) = brother (sister)-in-law  
DEP = descance en pas = RIP (rest in peace)  
de parte de = from, by  
dias = days  
EPD = en pas descance = RIP (rest in peace)  
edad = age  
esposo/a = husband/wife  
fallecio = died  
familiares = relatives  
hijastro (a) = stepchild  
hijo (a) = child (son/daughter)  
hijo adoptive = adopted child  
hijo de crianza = foster child  
hnos = hermanos = brothers/sisters  
jamás le olvidan = will never forget  
meses = months  
murio = died  
nacio = born  
nieto (a) = grandchild

6

FREE TRANSLATION OF INSCRIPTIONS

single  
space  
1. JEHOVAH ES MI PASTOR Y CON EL NADA ME FALTA

(The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2. DUERME EL SUENO ETERNO

Sleep the eternal sleep

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p 13, 160.

7. Don't weep. I am going to be with God, and will await you in heaven. Merciful God, give him eternal rest. p 13, #162.

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9. You left the world, it is true, but your departure was to be nearer God and to wait for those who mourn you on earth. p 20, #297.

10. Esteemed in the eyes of God. p 23, #374

11. Wife, sleep the eternal sleep, while your husband and children weep. p 110, #3, Row 12

12. Blessed are the pure in heart, etc. p 117, #13.

13. Here lie the ashes of Cristobal Leal Aug. 5. 1876, dead at age of 43, leaving behind kind memories as a good husband and loyal citizen. p 122, big boveda

## FREE TRANSLATION OF INSCRIPTIONS

14. The soul of the being whom we no longer see but who lives in our hearts until the day we shall be united in the Kingdom of Heaven. p 169, #5.
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18. She was an angel who descended from heaven, but she saw that heaven was not here, and she returned to her homeland. Her mother dedicates this memorial. p 25, #397.
19. The law of the wise man is the fountain of life to escape the ties (repes) of death. p 27, #433.
20. Her death was peaceful, showing in her sweet face the reflection of the serenity of her soul. p 44, #192.
21. Daughter, sleep the sleep of peace, while your mother weeps over your final farewell. P 79, #108.



# MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES IN HIDALGO COUNTY

CITY	CEMETERY NAME	LOCATION
Alamo	St. Joseph's Cem.	South Tower Road
Donna	Donna Cem.	South Ave. btwn 13th & 15th Sts.
Edcouch	Anahuac Cem.	Mile 18 North & Mile 4 West
Edinburg	Edinburg City Cem.	
Edinburg	Hillcrest Memorial Park	Schunior St., 0.25 mi. east of US281
Edinburg	Hillcrest (Old)	Schunior St., 0.25 mi. east of US 281
Hargill	Hargill Cem.	0.6 mi. south of Hargill
Hidalgo	Hidalgo Cem.	Third Street off of US281
La Joya	La Joya Cem.	Leo & Garza Sts. btwn 5th & 6th
McAllen	La Piedad Cem.	1801 Wichita St. near Airport
McAllen	Roselawn Perpetual Care Burial Park	1201 South Main St.
McAllen	Temple Emanuel Cem.	S. Ware Road at City limits
McAllen	Valley Memorial Gardens	Taylor at Mile 2 North "oad
Mercedes	Bautista Cem.	Anacuitas St. 0.75 mi. w of Texas Ave.
Mercedes	<del>Our Lady of Mercy</del>	Anacuitas St. 0.75 mi. w. of Texas Ave.
Mercedes	Our Lady of Mercy	Anacuitas St. 0.74 mi. w of Texas Ave
Mission	Laurel Hill Cem.	W.18th St. at N. Holland <del>xxxx</del> Ave,
Mission	San Jose Cem.	S. Stewart Rd, 0.5 mi. so of Expswy 83
Pharr	Guadalupe Cem.	W. Juarez and Bell Sts.
Pharr	Magic Valley Memorial Gardens	N <sup>u</sup> rth Sugar Road, north of Nolana Loop
Pharr	Palm Valley Memorial Gardens	No. Sugar Road
San Juan	San Juan city Cem.	South I. Road
Weslaco	Highland Mem. Park	So. Texas Ave and Mile 11 3/4 No.
Weslaco	Weslaco city Cem.	10th and Iowa Sts.

The new  
Municipal Cemeteries are not  
included in this tabulation. ~~But~~  
see most of these ~~are~~ <sup>were constructed</sup> relatively recently  
and burial records should be available  
in the county clerk's office ~~City #~~  
city ~~clerk~~ offices, ~~as~~ <sup>at</sup> funeral homes

6. Principles of personnel management

✓ Sears: PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT L.C.: PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT  
~~X EMPLOYMENT MGMT~~  
~~X PERSONNEL ADM~~  
~~XX MANAGEMENT~~

7. Plane trigonometry

✓ Sears: TRIGONOMETRY L.C.: TRIGONOMETRY, PLANE  
~~X PLANE TRIG~~

8. Round the world in industry and commerce; a short course in economic geography [textbook]

✓ Sears: GEOGRAPHY, COMMERCIAL L.C.: GEOGRAPHY, <sup>COMMERCIAL</sup> ~~ECONOMIC~~  
~~X ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY~~  
(note Key word - "textbook")

9. Hospitals and sanatoriums in the U.S.

✓ Sears: HOSPITALS - U.S. L.C.: HOSPITALS - U.S.  
HEALTH RESORTS,  
SPAS, ETC.  
SANATORIUMS - U.S.  
~~X SANITARIUMS~~  
~~XX HEALTH RESORTS, WATERING PLACES, ETC.~~

10. Weapons of the North American Indians

Sears: ~~ARMS AND ARMOR~~ L.C.: INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA - ARMS AND ARMOR  
INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA  
~~WEAPONS see ARMS AND ARMOR~~  
~~ARMS AND ARMOR, PRIMITIVE~~  
~~SA I INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA - ARMS AND ARMOR II~~

11. Sources of Shakespeare's plots

✓ Sears: SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM - L.C.: SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM, 1564-1616 - PLOTS  
CRITICISM, INTER-  
PRETATION, ETC.  
SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM, 1564-1616 - SOURCES

12. Abraham Lincoln as a criminal lawyer

Sears: LINCOLN, ABRAHAM, L.C.: ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRES US, 1809-1865  
PRES. US, 1809-1865 -  
LAW PRACTICE  
~~X LINCOLN AS A LAWYER~~

Super-  
imposition



nuera = daughter-in-law

padres = parents

padrinos = godparents

piadoso = pious, religious, merciful

politico = in-law

postumo = posthumous

progenitores = parents

QEPD = que en pas descance = RIP (rest in peace)

Rdo = recuerdo = memorial

sencillo homenaje = sincere tribute (homage)

seno (ceno) = bosom

sobrino (a) = nephew (niece)

sueno = sleep

velar = hold wake, mourn

viuda (Vda) = widow

yerno = son-in-law

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Compiled by  
McAllen Genealogical Society  
and  
Hidalgo County Historical Society

Published by  
Hidalgo County Historical Society  
Edinburg, TX  
1984

BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(October 1 - December 31, 1902)

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm

October 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,25,27,28,29,31

November 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,22,24,25,26,28,29

December 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,22,24,25,26,27,29,30,31

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Edinburg, TX 78540-0081

Suggested cataloging data:

BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(July 1 - September 30, 1902)

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm

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August 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,18,19,20,21,22,23,25,26,27,28,29,30

September 1,2,3,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18,19,20,22,23,24,25,26,27,29,30

(complete film)

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BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

August 1, 1901

October 31, 1901

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm.

August 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14,15,16,17,19,20,21,22,23,24,26,27,28,29,30,31

September 2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,23,24,25,26,27,28,30

October 1,2,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,17,18,19,21,22,24,25,26,28,29,30,31

(complete film)

## FOREWARD

One of the objectives of the Hidalgo County Historical Society is the preservation of county history. Much of the social, economic, and military history of the early days of Hidalgo County is reflected in its tombstones, some of which antedate the founding of the County in 1852.

Before the coming of the railroad at the turn of the century, there were no cities (except Hidalgo) and no municipal cemeteries. Ranch owners provided burial grounds for their families and villagers. When the property was sold, the burial grounds were reserved for use as family cemeteries.

Many tombstones were homemade, with inscriptions scratched into the wood or cement crosses. In the following pages, tombstone inscriptions have been copied as they appear on the markers, and no attempt has been made to correct obvious errors of spelling or inconsistent dates. Where appropriate, the compiler's comments appear in brackets.

Traditionally, Mexican American descendants of the early ranchers still clean and decorate the family plots on All Souls Day and at various other religious holidays. Frequently they scrape the earth bare and mound it, leaving offerings of colorful plastic or natural flowers.

Forty-six ranch cemeteries have been included in this study. Persons knowing of other burial grounds outside city limits are asked to inform the Hidalgo County Historical Society, so this listing may be updated. A second volume of early municipal cemeteries is planned.

Small crosses decorated with flowers may be seen along the highways of Hidalgo County. Usually these are not grave markers, but indicate the site where some lost his life. In Mexican folklore, the soul lingers at the spot where it left the body, and the marker is a memorial. These are not included in this survey.

With a number of people working on the project, there is a variance in the style in which the cemeteries have been listed. Some of the cemeteries are laid out in no recognizable pattern, and an attempt to impose consistent order would be futile. Accordingly, we have left the various numbering schemes to the discretion of the compiler.

We hope that our effort in publishing this record of ranch cemeteries will further research into county history and genealogy.

BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(January 2 - June 29, 1901)

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm

January 2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,17,18,19,21,22,23,24,25,26,28,29,30,31

March 7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,18,19,20,21,22,23,25,26,27,28

April 1,2,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18,19,20,22,23,24,25,26,27,29,30

May 1,2,3,6,7,9,10,11,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,25,27,28,29,30,31,

June 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,22,24,25,26,27,28,29

(complete film)

REEL 34  
1339  
Frances Watt Isbell  
Chairperson  
Cemetery Committee  
Hidalgo County Historical Society

Weslaco, Texas  
16 March 1984

## BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(October 1 - December 31, 1900)

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm

October 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,12,13,15,16,17,18,19,20,22,24,25,  
26,27,29,30,31

November 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14,15,17,19,20,21,22,23,24,25  
27,28,29,30

December 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,22,24,26,  
27,28,29,31

(complete film)

[DEDICATION]

**BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD****(January 1 - March 24, 1900)****Listed in sequence as found on microfilm**

January 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18,19,20,22,23,24,25  
26,27,29,30,31  
February 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,12,13,14,15,16,17,19,20,21,22,23,24,26,27  
March 7,8,9,10,12,13,14,15,16,17,19,20,21,22,23,24

**(complete film)**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members of the McAllen Genealogical Society began a census of Hidalgo County Cemeteries as a Bicentennial Project in 1976. They worked on this project until 1980, by which time they had identified and inventoried 46 rural cemeteries.

Members of the Cemetery Committee were Joe Fallin, Ray Hunt, Wilma Kosar, Edward Miner, Dolores Rednour, Virginia G. Stinson and Dale Swartzmiller. Family members and friends have also assisted in the project.

This uncompleted project was turned over to the Hidalgo County Historical Society in 1980. At this time Fran <sup>Y</sup>~~W~~att Isbell, of Mercedes, Texas took on the responsibility of its completion. Without her unrelenting persistence over the next five years this project would never have come to fruition. She was <sup>g</sup>~~ab~~ly assisted with this project by Mrs. Goldsby Goza, also of Mercedes. These two individuals continued transcribing new ranch cemeteries which were identified after this project was turned over to them. They also returned to many of the already-tr<sup>n</sup>~~as~~cribed cemeteries to check and expand information collected earlier.

Later both Goldsby Goza and Virginia Haynie, of Edinburg, helped document many of the Hidalgo County cemeteries through photographs and slides. In general, they took overviews of the cemeteries and photographed outstanding and unusual, though regionally typical, graves.



**BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD****(THE DAILY HERALD)****(October 6 - December 29, 1899)****Listed in sequence as found on microfilm****October 6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,17,18,19,20,21,23,24,25,26,27,28,  
30,31****December 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,18,19,20,21,22,23,  
25,26,27,28,29****(complete film)**

To all those who gave generously of their time and skills to fight their way through brush and rough fields and struggled with high grass and angry insects, unmapped roads and crumbling tombstones, to find and record our early ranch cemeteries, our heartfelt thanks.

Indexes were compiled by ??? and others. Goldsby Goza translated Spanish inscriptions. Fran Isbell edited the material and George Gause prepared this final computer-generated typescript.

The Hidalgo County Historical Society Book Sales Committee cooperated in having this book published and thereby making this material available to the public.

The Hidalgo County Historical Society

**BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD****(THE DAILY HERALD)****(January 3 - April 26, 1899)****Listed in sequence as found on microfilm**

January 3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,23,24,25,26,  
27,28,30,31  
April 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,20,21,22,24,25,26

**(complete film)**

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Campacuas Cemetery.....	
Capote Cemetery.....	
El Desierto Cemetery.....	
Los Ebanos Cemetery.....	
Granjeno Cemetery.....	
Jackson Methodist Church Cemetery.....	
Laguna Seca Cemetery.....	
La Lomita, statue of the Virgin Mary.....	
Nino Jesus de Praga, showing lich gate and chapel.....	
Penitas Cemetery, showing arch over entrance.....	
Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, showing boveda.....	

## BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(THE DAILY HERALD)

(January 3 - November 28, 1898)

Listed in sequence as found microfilm

January 3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,22,24,25,  
26,27,28,29,31  
February 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,17,18,19,21,22,23,24  
25,26,28  
April 6,7,29  
May 4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,23,24,25,26,27,28  
30,31  
September 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14,15,16,17,19,20,21,22,23,24  
26,27,28,29,30  
November 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,18,19,21,22,23,24,25  
26,28

(complete film)

## LIST OF MAPS

Hidalgo County.....	
Puerto Rico-Cipres Area (northeast Hidalgo County).....	
[list individual cemeteries]	
San Manuel area (north central Hidalgo County).....	
[list individual cemeteries]	
Southeast Hidalgo County.....	
[list individual cemeteries]	
Southwest Hidalgo County.....	
[list individual cemeteries]	

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"Southern Folk Cemeteries in Texas," pp. 227-258.

Southwestern Historical Quarterly, January 1980. 83:3

## BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(THE DAILY HERALD)

(May 3 - September 29, 1897)

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm

May 3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,22,24,25,26,  
27,28,29,31June 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,17,18,19,21,22,23,24,25  
26,28,29,30

August 2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10

September 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,25,  
27,28,29

(complete film)



## GLOSSARY OF SPANISH WORDS

abuelo/a = grandfather/mother

afligidos = sorrowing

ahijado/a = adopted child, godchild

anos = years

boveda = crypt (above ground)

cunador/a = brother/sister-in-law

*cunado/a* *is*

D E P = descance en paz = R I P (rest in peace)

de parte de = from, by

dias = days

E P D = en paz descance = R I P (rest in peace)

edad = age

esposos/a = husband/wife

fallecio = died

familiares = relatives

higastro/a = stepchild

*hijastro* *is*

hijo/a = child (son or daughter)

hijo/a adoptivo/a = adopted child (son or daughter)

hijo/a de crianza = foster child (son or daughter)

hnos = hermanos/as = brothers/sisters

jamás le olvidan = will never forget

meses = months

murio = died

**BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD****(THE DAILY HERALD)****(January 1 - April 30, 1897)****Listed in sequence as found on microfilm.**

January 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,18,19,20,21,22,23,  
25,26,27,28,29,30

February 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18,19,20,22,23,24,25

March 23,24,25,26,27,29,30,31

April 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14,15,16,17,19,20,21,22,23,24,  
26,27,28,29,30

**(complete film)**

nacio = born

nieto/a = grandson/granddaughter

nuera = daughter-in-law

padres = parents

padrinos = godparents

papas = padres = parents

piadoso = pious, religious, merciful *pious (?) yes*

politico = in-law

postumo = posthumous

progenitores = parents

Q E P D = que en pas descance = R I P (rest in peace)

Rdo = recuerdo = memorial, monument, stone

sencillo homenaje = sincere tribute (homage)

seno = seno = bosom

sobrino/a = nephew/niece

sueno = sleep

velar = hold wake, mourn

verno = son-in-law

viuda de = widow of

\* = Born

+ = Died

## BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(THE DAILY HERALD)

(September 1 - December 28, 1896)

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm

September 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,17,18,19,21,22,23,24,  
25,26,28,29,30  
October 7,8,9,10,12,13,14,15,16,17,19,20,21,22,23,24,26,27,28,29,30,31  
November 2,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,23,24,25,26,  
27,28,30  
December 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,17,18,19,21,22,23,24,25,  
26,28,

(complete film)

## COMMON MISSPELLINGS

auela, avuela = abuela

belan = velan (mourn) [B and V often interchanged]

Cenobeba = Genoveva (Genevieve, Christian name)

dea = da

enriamos = enviamos

fallesieron = falleciernon

he = e, y (and)

hedad = edad (age)

hespoza = esposa (wife)

horan = oran (pray)

llacen = yacen (lie)

mihiha = mi hija (my daughter)

pas = paz (peace)

Plasido = Placido

qui = qqui (here)

R and V are often confused

seallen = se hallen (are found)

## BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(THE DAILY HERALD)

(July 1-August 31, 1896)

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm

July 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,25,27,  
28,29,30August 5, (JULY 31),1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,  
22,24,25,26,27,28,29,31

(complete film)



## COMMON SPANISH CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS

### Free Translations

1. JEHOVA ES MI PASTOR Y CON EL NADA ME FALTA. The Lord is my sheperd; I shall not want.
2. RECUREDO DE SU ESPOSA E HIJOS E HIJAS. A memorial from his wife and sons and daughters.
3. HIJA, DUERME EL SUENO ETERNO MIENTRAS TUS PADRES Y HERMANOS LLORAN TU ETERNA AUSENCIA. Daughter, sleep the eternal sleep while your parents and brothers weep for your eternal absence. [Los Ebanos, No. 142]
4. SU ESPOSA E JIJOS DEDICAN ESTE RECUERDO A SU MEMORIA. His wife and children dedicate this monument to his memory. [Los Ebanos, No. 151]
5. LO HEMOS AMADO MUCHO Y NO LO DEJAREMOS HASTA QUE CON NUESTRAS LAGRIMAS Y ORACIONES LO INTRODUCAMOS EN LA CASA DE NUESTRO SENOR. We have loved him much, and will not abandon him until with our tears and prayers we present him in the house of Our Lord. [Los Ebanos, No. 160]
6. NO LLORES. YA VOY CON DIOS OS ESPERARE EN EL CIELO. JESUS MISERICORDIOSO DADLE EL DESCANSO ETERNO. Don't weep. I am going to be with God, and will await you in heaven. Merciful Jesus, give him eternal rest. [Los Ebanos, No. 162]
7. ENVIANOS DESDE EL CIELO CONSUELO Y RESIGNACION A TU ESPOSA...Y HIJOS QUE LLORAN TO AUSENCIA. Send from heaven comfort and resignation to his wife...and children who mourn his absence. [Los Ebanos, No. 178]
8. TE AUSENTASTE DEL MUNDO ES VERDAD, MAS TU PARTIDA FUE PARA ESTAR MAS CERCA DE DIOS Y VELAR POR LOS QUE TE LLORAN EN LA TIERRA. You left the world, it is true, but your departure was to be nearer God and to wait for those who mourn you on earth. [Los Ebanos, No. 297]
9. ESTIMADO EN LOS OJOS DE DIOS LA MUERTE DE LOS SANTOS. Esteemed in the eyes of God, the death of the blessed. [Los Ebanos, No. 374]
10. CON FECHA 5 DE AGOSTO DE 1876 AQUI LLACEN LAS CENISAS DE D. CRISTOVAL LEAL FALLECIO E 43 ANOS DEEDAD D DEJANDO GRATOS RECUERDOS COMO BUEN ESPOSO Y FIEL CIUDADANO. With date of August 5, 1876 here lie the ashes of Don Cristobal Lean dead at the age of 43, leaving behind kind memories as a good husband and loyal citizen. [Santa Ana, No. ]
11. EL ALMA DEL SER QUE YA NO VEMOS PERO QUE VIVE EN NUESTROS CORAZONES



**BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD****(THE DAILY HERALD)****(January 1-February 29, 1896)****Listed in sequence as found on microfilm**

**January 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,25,  
27,28,29,30,31**

**February 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,22,24,25,26,  
27,28,29**

**(complete film)**

HASTA EL DIA QUE NOS UNAMOS EN EL RIENO DE LOS GIELOS. SAGRADO CORAZON DE JESUS RUEGA POR EL. The soul of the being whom we no longer see but who lives in our hearts until the day we shall be united in the Kingdom of Heaven. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for him. [San Manuel, Second Row, No. 5]

12. TE DEDICAMOS ESTE HUMILDE RECUERDO A TU MEMORIA LOS QUE TANTO TE QUISIMOS. REGAMOS DE LAGRIMA Y FLORES TO ESPULCRO ALLA EN TU TRONO RUEGA POR TUES PADRES QUE BELAN POR TI. We dedicate to you this humble memorial to your memory, we who loved you so. We water your grave with tears and flowers. There on your throne, pray for your parents who keep watch over you. [Los Ebanos, No. 379]
13. FUE UN ANGEL QUE DE CIELO DECENDIO MAS VIO QUE AQUI NO HERA EL CIELO YA SU PATRIA SE BOLVIO. She was an angel who descended from heaven, but she saw that heaven was not here, and she returned to her homeland. [Los Ebanos, No. 397]
14. LA LEY DEL SABIO ES MANANTIAL DE VIDA PARA APARTARSE DE LOS LAZOS DE LA MUERTE. The law of the wise man is the fountain of life to escape the ties [ropes] of death. [Los Ebanos, No. 433]
15. SU MUERTO FUE TRANQUILA VIENDOS EN SU DULCE SEMBALENTE EL REFLEJO DE LA SERENIDAD DE SU ALMA. Her death was peaceful, showing in her sweet face the reflection of the serenity of her soul. [Havana, No. 192]
16. BAJA ESTA MARMELEA Y SEPULCRAL MORADA YACEN LOS RESTOS DEL FINADO D. ANTONIO CANO QUE FALLECIO DEL 12 DE FEBRERO DE 1877 EN EL R. DE GUADALUPE TEXAS A LOS 65 ANOS, SIETE MESES Y VIENTENUEVA DIAS DE SU EDAD. LA ESPOSA E HIJOS DEL FINADO LE CONSAGRAN ESTA MEMORIA COMO EMACION DEL CONYUGAL Y FILIAL AMOR CON QUE VENERAN SUS CENIZAS. Under this marble and sepulchral abode lie the remains of the deceased Don Antonio Cano who died February 12, 1877 at Guadalupe Ranch, Texas, at 65 years, 7 months, and 29 days of age. The wife and children of the deceased dedicate this memorial to him as an expression of the conjugal and filial love with which they venerate his ashes. [Campacuas, No. N233]
17. MURIO TRANQUILA EN LA MANANA FRIA SIN UNA QUEJA Y LA MIRADO AL CIELO PERO EN LOS SUYOS CUANTO DESCONUELO! DESDE AQUEL TRISTE, INOLVIDABLE DIA.

SI ERA ELLA EN NUESTRO HOGAR, NUESTRA ALEGRIA DE TODOS LA VIRTUDES UN MODELO; SI ERA ELLA NUESTRO ENCANTO Y NUESTRO ANHELO PORQUE TE LA LLEVASTE MUERTE IMPIA? FALTABA ACASO EN LA CELESTE ALTURA UN ESTRELLA DE NITIDO FULOR? O UNA VIRGEN MAS CANDIDA Y MAS PURA? JUSTICIERA ES TU LEY, PERO AH! SENOR--ESTRELLA O VIRGEN TU SENTENCIA ES DURA PORQUE NOS LLENA EN ALMA DE DOLOR. She died peacefully in the cold morning without a complaint and with her eyes turned to heaven. But in her family, such desolation Since that sad, unforgettable day. She was the

## BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(THE DAILY HERALD)

(September 4-December 30, 1895)

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm

September 4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,23,24,25,26,  
27,28,30

October 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9

December 2,3,4,5,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,23,24,25,26,  
27,28,30

(complete film)

happiness in our home, a model of all the virtues. She was our  
delight and our joy. Why hast thou taken her away, cruel Death?  
Perhaps in Heaven they needed a star of great brilliance or a maiden  
most innocent and pure? Justice is Thy law, but oh! God--star or  
maiden Thy judgement is difficult because grief fills our souls. [Los  
Novillos, No. 1]

## BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(THE DAILY HERALD)

(May 3-July 30, 1895)

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm

May 3,4,6,7,8,9,10,11, 13,14,15,16,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,25,27,28,  
29,30,31June 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,22,24,25,26,27,  
28,29July 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18,19,20,22,23,24,25,26,  
27,29,30

(complete film)

## MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES IN HIDALGO COUNTY

Municipal cemeteries are not included in this tabulation. Most of these were established since the founding of Hidalgo County in 1852 and death records should be available in the county clerk's office, city offices, cemetery or funeral homes' offices. A transcription of municipal cemeteries for Hidalgo County is planned.

CITY	NAME OF CEMETERY	LOCATION
Alamo	St. Joseph's Cemetery	South Tower Road
Donna	Donna Cemetery	South Avenue between 13th and 15th Street
Edcouch	Anahuac Cemetery	Mile 18 North and Mile 4 West
Edinburg	Brushwood Cemetery	Schunior Street, 0.25 miles east of US 281
Edinburg	County Pauper Cemetery	Tex-Mex Subdivision
Edinburg	Edinburg City Cemetery	Near Water Treatment Plant
Edinburg	Hillcrest Memorial Park	Schunior Street, 0.25 miles east of US 281
Edinburg	Negro Cemetery	Just north of Brushwood and Hillcrest Cemetery
Hargill	Hargill Cemetery	0.6 miles south of Hargill
Hidalgo	Hidalgo Cemetery	Third Street, off US 281
La Joya	La Joya Cemetery	Leo and Garza Streets, between 5th and 6th Streets
McAllen	La Piedad Cemetery	1801 Wichita Street near airport
McAllen	Roselawn Perpetual Care Burial Park	1201 South Main Street
McAllen	Temple Emanuel	South Ware Road at city limits
McAllen	Valley Memorial Gardens	Taylor Road at Mile 2 North Road
Mercedes	Bautista Cemetery	Anacuitas Street, 0.75 miles west of Texas Avenue
Mercedes	Ebony Grove	0.25 miles west of FM 491 and 1.5 miles south of Business 83
Mercedes	Emmanuel Cemetery	Anacuitas Street, 0.75 miles west of Texas Avenue
Mercedes	Our Lady of Mercy	Anacuitas Street, 0.74 miles west of Texas Avenue
Mission	Laurel Hill Cemetery	West 18th Street at North Holland Avenue
Mission	San Jose Cemetery	South Steward Road, 0.5 miles south of Expressway 83
Pharr	Guadalupe Cemetery	West Juarez and Bell Streets
Pharr	Magic Valley Memorial Gardens	North Sugar Road, north of Nolana Loop
Pharr	Palm Valley Memorial Gardens	North Sugar Road

## BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(THE DAILY HERALD)

(February 4-April 27, 1895)

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm

February 4,5,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,18,19,20,21,22,23,25,26,27,  
28

March 14,15,16,18,19,20,21,22,23,25,26,27,28,29,30

April 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18,19,20,22,23,24,25,26,  
27

(complete film)



San Juan  
Weslaco  
Weslaco

San Juan City Cemetery  
Highland Memorial Park  
Weslaco City Cemetery

South I Road  
South Texas Avenue and Mill 11 3/4 North Road  
10th and Iowa Streets

BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(THE DAILY HERALD)

(October 18-November 27, 1894)

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm

October 18,19,20,22,23,24,25,26,27,29,30,31

November 1,2,3,5,7,8,9,10,12,13,14,15,16,17,19,20,21,22,23,24,  
26,27

(complete film)

**ANACUITAS CEMETERY**

Location: Anacuitas Cemetery, also known as Cavazos Cemetery, is in north Mercedes, north of Expressway (US 83) on west side of FM 491 where it crosses the Main Canal. Person to contact: Miss Refugia (Cuca) Cavazos. Although inside city limits, this was a ranch cemetery.

Compilers: Goldsby Goza and Fran Isbell on January 19 and 26, 1980.

Graves face east. Rows begin at dirt road and continue north.

ROW A [Begins 40 feet from dirt road]

A 1. GUADALUPE S. FLORES Sept 10, 1918 - Aug 27, 1976 Un recuerdo de su esposa e hijo EPD (Funeral Home marker, Garcia Trevion) Age 57 yrs 11 mo 17 da

[Five empty spaces]

A 2. FRANCISCO B. RIBERA [Stone and enclosures] Texas PVT Quartermaster Coprs WWI Aug 1, 1900 - Aug 27, 1958

A 3. TOMASA VDA DE RIBERA

## BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

(THE DAILY HERALD)

July 2 - September 29, 1894

Listed in sequence as found on microfilm.

July 2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,23,24,25,26,27,28,30,31  
August 1,2,3,4,11,13,15,16,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,25,27,28,29,30  
September 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,22,25,26,27,28,29

(complete film)

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HANDWRITING; THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS AND  
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REVOLUTION; HERALDRY; LABELS; AND ARCHIVAL PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES

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- T (4) 13. Little Manual of Heraldry
- T (2) 14. Armorial Général
- T (2) 15. Illustrations to the Armorial Général



photo on  
tombstone

have tags  
put candles  
on child's  
graves <sup>so not</sup> afraid  
marigolds  
white tube roses

## PREFACE

The cemeteries listed in this book, when examined as folk graveyards, contain a wealth of Christian and pre-Christian symbols, fascinating to the folklorist.

Texas ranch cemeteries accommodate the wealthy landowner and the men and women who worked the land, as well as frequently, remains of some poor soul whose relatives had no other place to bury.

Many Hidalgo County ranch cemeteries have bare or scraped earth gravesites. Fresh earth is mounded over the gravesite annually, suggesting a new burial.

Most graves face east, and have head stones. Graves are decorated with such objects as shells, pottery, vases and flowers. Hidalgo County cemeteries may be planned with rows of crinum lilies, but other introduced plantings are rare. Native trees and bushes grow where they have sprung up.

Many family plots are enclosed with bricks or low cement curbs. Husbands are buried on the right or south side.

Many tombstones are homemade, of cement, some imbedded decorations such as marbles, tile or broken crockery, and the inscription may be scratched in. Tombstones are simple rounded style or may be surmounted with a cross. Humbler folk have simple wooden crosses, or sometimes pipe crosses.

Traditionally, the Mexican Americans scrape the earth bare over a grave. Annual graveyard cleaning is traditional on All Souls Day, when gravesites are cleared, fresh or new plastic flower wreaths are placed or hung on the graves.

Symbolism of the broken pottery is the shattered life, a survival of West Africa. Shells appear, a custom originating in Europe, as a symbol of the mother fertility goddess, or great female diety, whose other symbols include the rose and the dove, some of whose duties was to oversee the dead.

Ancient Mediterranean practice of placing shells on graves reached Texas by way of Spain and Mexico. The shell is a symbol of Saint James (through pilgrimage sites) and the Virgin Mary. "In Mexico and south Texas, many Mexican graves are decorated with shells, the ancient fertility/rebirth symbolism."

Tombstones, rounded or pointed top. Many inscriptions are incorrectly spelled.

The editors have made no attempt to correct the spelling copied from the tombstones, and they are presented as reported by the compilers.

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RIO GRANDE VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF HARLINGEN  
INDUSTRIAL AIR PARK  
HARLINGEN, TX 78550

TELEPHONE: (512) 423-3979

MUSEUM HOURS:

MUSEUM COMPLEX

TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY	9:00 - 12:00
	2:00 - 5:00
SUNDAY	2:00 - 5:00

LON C. HILL HOME\*

WEDNESDAY	2:00 - 5:00
ALSO DECEMBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 29	
SUNDAY	2:30 - 5:00

(THE LON C. HILL HOME IS LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET FROM  
CITY AUDITORIUM IN LON C. HILL PARK, ALSO KNOWN AS FIESTA  
OR FAIR PARK IN HARLINGEN)

FEE: DONATION

CONTACT PERSON: MRS. ELEANOR GALT, DIRECTOR

SCOPE: LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY HERITAGE

\* Do you know what the initial "C." stands for in "Lon C. Hill"?  
See the bottom of the last page in the section describing this  
museum for the answer.



## FOREWARD

One of the objectives of the Hidalgo County Historical Society is the preservation of county history. Much of the social, economic, and military history of the early days of Hidalgo County is reflected in its tombstones, some of which antedate the founding of the County in 1852.

Before the coming of the railroad at the turn of the century, there were no cities (except Hidalgo) and no municipal cemeteries. Ranch owners provided burial grounds for their families and villagers. When the property was sold, the burial grounds were reserved for use as family cemeteries.

Many tombstones were homemade, with inscriptions scratched into the wood or cement crosses. In the following pages, tombstone inscriptions have been copied as they appear on the markers, and no attempt has been made to correct obvious errors of spelling or inconsistent dates. Where appropriate, the compiler's comments appear in brackets.

Traditionally, Mexican American descendants of the early ranchers still clean and decorate the family plots on All Souls Day and at various other religious holidays. Frequently they scrape the earth bare and mound it, leaving offerings of colorful plastic or natural flowers.

Forty-six ranch cemeteries have been included in this study. Persons knowing of other burial grounds outside city limits are asked to inform the Hidalgo County Historical Society, so this listing may be updated. A second volume of early municipal cemeteries is planned.

Small crosses decorated with flowers may be seen along the highways of Hidalgo County. Usually these are not grave markers, but indicate the site where some<sup>one</sup> lost his life. In Mexican folklore, the soul lingers at the spot where it left the body, and the marker is a memorial. These are not included in this survey.

With a number of people working on the project, there is a variance in the style in which the cemeteries have been listed. Some of the cemeteries are laid out in no recognizable pattern, and an attempt to impose consistent order would be futile. Accordingly, we have left the various numbering schemes to the discretion of the compiler.

We hope that our effort in publishing this record of ranch cemeteries will further research into county history and genealogy.

Hidalgo County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 81 Edinburg, Texas 78541-81

1 February 1984  
~~3 October 1981~~

## SOUTH TEXAS HISTORICAL MUSEUM BUS TOUR

The Hidalgo County Historical Society will sponsor a South Texas Historical Bus Tour on Sunday, ~~1 November 1981~~ <sup>19 Feb 1984</sup>. This tour will originate at the Hidalgo County Historical Museum in Edinburg and the cost of the tour, per person, is <sup>30</sup>~~\$28.00~~. *[If there is sufficient demand this tour will be repeated on Sunday, 4 March 1984.]*  
The full day tour will proceed as follows:

- 8:30 - 9:00 am Registration at the Hidalgo County Historical Museum during which time refreshments will be served
- 9:00 - 10:00 am Tour the Hidalgo County Historical Museum
- 10:00 - 11:00 am Travel via chartered Valley Transit Bus from Edinburg to Raymondville
- 11:00 - 12:30 pm Buffet lunch at the Casa Blanca Restaurant, Raymondville (included as part of the tour) *Angie/Sue Center Mary 6.50*
- 12:30 - 1:30 pm Tour the Raymondville Historical Museum, *including new preaching museum* (local historians from the Raymondville area will join us)
- 1:30 - 2:30 pm Travel via bus from Raymondville to Harlingen
- 2:30 - 5:00 pm Tour the Rio Grande Valley Historical Museum of Harlingen comprised of  
*expanded*
  1. The Main Museum, the Paso Real Stagecoach Inn, Harlingen's first hospital, the Garden for the Blind, and
  2. The Lon C. Hill Home
- 5:00 - 6:30 pm The tour bus will return to Edinburg via the Old Military Highway

Also included in the tour is a tour guide booklet describing the museums which will be visited; refreshments along the way; and a guided tour from the bus as historical places are passed along the way.

Please fill out the form on the next page for each person/couple wanting to go on the tour. Maximum tour occupancy is limited to <sup>40</sup>~~38~~ people (last <sup>7</sup>3 seats will remain vacant).

Frances Watt Isbell  
Chairperson  
Cemetery Committee  
Hidalgo County Historical Society

Weslaco, Texas  
16 March 1984

page two

Priority will be given to current (198<sup>4</sup>) Hidalgo County Historical Society members. (Spouses and POSSLQs going on the tour should also be members in order to have "Priority" status.) Non-members may join the Society by including a separate check for \$4.00 per person made out to the "Hidalgo County Historical Society."

Please send your application along with your money (checks made payable to the "Hidalgo County Historical Society") to the following address:

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P.O. Box 81  
Edinburg, TX 785<sup>40-88</sup>~~39~~-81

All applications must be received through the above address. Seating will be assigned in order of receipt of applications.

\*\*\*YOUR RESERVATION(S) WILL BE CONFIRMED BY PHONE\*\*\*

ALL CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF ~~REGISTRATION~~

We look forward to having you along with us on this <sup>repeated</sup> ~~first~~ offering of the South Texas Historical Museum Bus Tour.

For further information please call:

Fran Isbell 968-4533 (work)  
565-2842 (home 6-9 pm)

George Gause 381-2799 (work)  
383-0811 (home 6-9 pm)

*but would prefer to do so on Sunday, 4 March, please mark below*  
NB: If you would like to take the SOUTH TEXAS HISTORICAL MUSEUM BUS TOUR but ~~are unable to do so at this time~~, please ~~let us know~~ and we will let you know ~~when we again offer this tour~~. *on that date if will again offer*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BUS. PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: Check below to indicate if you want to be in the non-smoking or smoking section of the bus (smokers will be seated in the rear of the bus).

\_\_\_\_\_ non-smoking \_\_\_\_\_ smoking (rear of the bus)



*copied.*

*Margie - I sent copy to Anne to see if she wants to change it 4-4-80*

## FOREWORD

One of the objectives of the Hidalgo County Historical <sup>Society</sup> Commission is the preservation of county history. Much of the <sup>Family,</sup> social, economic, <sup>political</sup> and military history of the early days of Hidalgo County is reflected in its tombstones, some of which antedate the founding of the County in 1852.

Before the coming of the railroad at the turn of the century, there were no cities (except Hidalgo) and no municipal cemeteries. Ranch owners provided burial grounds for their families and villagers. When the property was sold, the burial grounds were reserved for use as family cemeteries.

Many tombstones were homemade, with inscriptions scratched into ~~the~~ wood or cement crosses. In the following pages, tombstone inscriptions ~~appear~~ have been copied as they appear on the markers, ~~with~~ and no attempt has been made to correct obvious errors of spelling or inconsistent dates. Where appropriate, the compiler's comments appear in parentheses.

Traditionally, Mexican American descendants of the early ranchers still clean and decorate the family plots on All Souls Day and at various other religious holidays. Frequently they scrape the earth bare and mound it, leaving offerings of colorful plastic or natural flowers, shells and domestic objects

Forty-six ranch cemeteries have been included in this study. Persons knowing of other burial grounds outside city limits are asked to inform the <sup>Hidalgo County Historical</sup> ~~McAllen Genealogical~~ Society, so this listing may be kept current. A second volume of early ~~municipal~~ municipal cemeteries is planned, but the need was more urgent for these rural

(5)

~~this listing, since some of these grounds have fallen out of use, and are neglected. Municipal records are available for burials in city cemeteries, which is not always the case with the ranch cemeteries.~~

Small crosses decorated with flowers may be seen along the highways of Hidalgo County. Usually these are not grave markers, but indicate the site where someone lost his life. In Mexican folklore, the soul lingers at the spot where it left the body, and the marker is a memorial. ~~The Texas Highway Department recognizes this practice, and leaves the markers undisturbed.~~ <sup>sites</sup> Accordingly, these are not included in this survey.

With a number of people working on the project, there is a variance in the style in which the cemeteries have been <sup>inventoried</sup> ~~listed~~. Some <sup>graveyards were</sup> ~~of the cemeteries~~ are laid out in no recognizable pattern, and an attempt to impose <sup>consistent</sup> order would be futile. According <sup>ly</sup>, we have left the various numbering schemes to the discretion of the compiler.

We hope that our effort in publishing this record of ranch ~~xxx~~ cemeteries will further research into county history and genealogy.

David Sigle  
President

~~ANNE L. MAGEE~~

~~Chairman~~

Hidalgo County Historical ~~Commission~~ Society

Coma de muerto?

Pharr  
Edinburg, Texas  
May 1, 1986

Preface (Not in final version. July 11/7/80)

Hidalgo County wealth  
These folk graveyards ~~xxxxxxx~~ contain a ~~wealth~~ of Christian and pre-Christian symbols, fascinating to the folklorist.

Hidalgo County  
~~Tex~~s ranch cemeteries accommodated the wealthy landowner and the men and women who worked the land, as well as frequently, remains of some poor soul whose relatives had no other place to bury. ~~(C. L. O. P. H. S.)~~

Many Hidalgo County ~~xxxxxxx~~ ranch cemeteries have bare ~~xxxxx~~, or scraped earth gravesites. Earth is mounded over the gravesite annually, suggesting a new burial.

Most graves face east, and have head stones. Graves are decorated with such objects as shells, pottery, vases and flowers. Hidalgo County cemeteries may be planted with rows of <sup>crinum</sup> lilies, ~~xxxxxx~~ but other introduced plantings are rare. ~~Tex~~ Native trees and bushes grow where they have sprung up.

Family <sup>enclosed</sup> shells,  
Many plots ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> lined with bricks, or low cement curbs. ~~xxxx~~  
Husbands are buried on the right or south side.

~~except for the owners,~~  
Tombstones ~~xxxxxxx~~ are often ~~xxxxxx~~ homemade, of

Many tombstones are homemade, of cement ~~xxxxx~~ some with imbedded decorations such as marbles, tile or broken crockery, and the inscription may be scratched in. ~~xxxxxx~~  
~~Purchased~~ Tombstones are simple rounded style or may be surmounted with a cross. Humbler folk have simple wooden crosses, or sometimes pipe crosses.

Traditionally, the Mexican Americans scrape the earth bare over a grave. ~~Tex~~ An annual grave-yard cleaning is traditional on All Souls Day, ~~October~~, when gravesites are cleared, fresh ~~fls~~ or ~~xxxxxx~~ new plastic flower wreaths are hung on the graves.

Symbolism of the broken pottery is the shattered life, a survival of West Africa. Shells appear, a custom originating in Europe,

# ADDENDUM SHEET

CHILD STAR AND THE SUN CAKES	9½x12½	32 pages	3-9 years	April
ANGEL	9½x10	32 pages	5-12 years	April
SEVEN-YEAR-OLD WONDER-BOOK	5½x8½	188 pages	5-10 years	January
OW AND THE CRYSTAL CLEAR	10x11	32 pages	4-10 years	April
A CHILD'S FIRST BOOK	8x10	7 pages	1-3 years	February (fold-out)
THE BOOK OF FAIRY PRINCES	5½x8½	188 pages	5-14 years	April
THE CHRISTMAS LAMB	10½x7½	32 pages	6-12 years	April

\*\*\*\*\*

THE FIDDLER, THE FIRE, AND THE FEAST	5 3/8 x 8	32 pages	7-15 years	May
A STAR IS BORN	8½x11	32 pages	Parents	March Boxed
THE DRAGON'S PATH	5 3/8 x 8	64 pages	10-up	May
SEVEN TALES OF THE FORSTRAMAN	9x12	64 pages	7-13 years	April
AND THEN TAKE HANDS	8½x11	192 pages	Y-up	June
THE PLANET OF TEARS	6.1/8 x 9½	160 pages	YA-A	June
THE LITTLE MERMAN	6.1/8 x 9½	160 pages	9-up	April

\*\*\*\*\*



fertility  
as a symbol of the mother/goddess, or great female deity, whose  
other symbols include the rose and the dove. ~~None~~ of whose duties  
was to oversee the dead.

Ancient Mediterranean practice of placing shells on graves  
reached Texas by way of Spain and Mexico. Shell is symbol of  
St. James (through ~~crux~~ pilgrimage sites) and the Virgin Mary.  
"In Mexico and south Texas, many Mexican graves are decorated  
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Tombstones, rounded or pointed top. Many inscriptions  
are incorrectly spelled.

The editors have made no attempt to correct the  
spelling copied from the tombstones, and they are presently  
as reported by the compilers

Jordan, Terry G. "THE ROSES SORED AND THE LILIES SO ~~FAIR~~ FAIR"  
Southern Folk Cemeteries in Texas, pp 227-258 SOUTHWESTERN  
HISTORICAL quarterly, January 1980 VOL LXXXIII, No 3, published  
by the Texas State Historical Association

The Hidalgo County Historical Museum  
contains a <sup>cask</sup> iron headboard and foot used  
to make the cama de muerte or funeral  
bier on the old Rancho Edinburgo of merchant  
John McAllen at the present site of Hidalgo.  
The deceased was laid out on wooden planks  
supported by the iron headings, until the  
funeral occurred.



# The Establishment in Texas Politics

The Primitive Years, 1938-1957

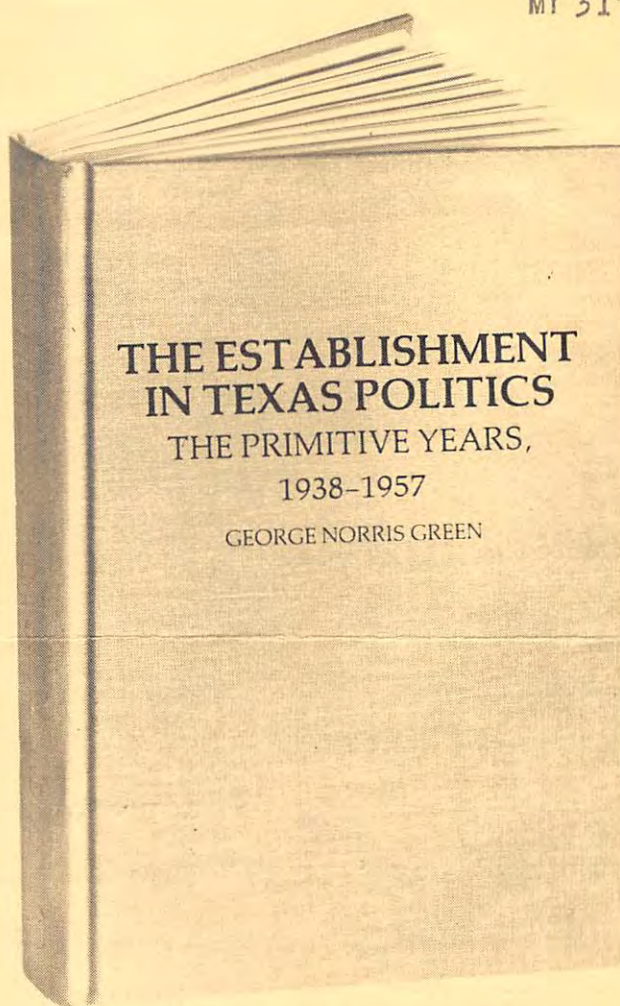
by George Norris Green

Texas is arguably a unique state. As residents of the only state to win its own independence and the only state ever to stand on its own as a viable republic, Texans have sometimes felt removed from and superior to — the mainstreams of American life. Texas politicians are particularly prone to this feeling; they often consider themselves exempt from observing the standards of propriety that most Americans expect in their leaders. Since Texas has produced so many nationally prominent statesmen in recent years, the unique world of Texas politics is of interest to all Americans.

George Norris Green has examined the formative decades of modern Texas politics in this fascinating study. Before the 1930s, the governing of Texas was shared among politicians, reform movements, and corporate interest groups. In the late 1930s, however, the corporations got a grip on the state that they have yet to relinquish. Texans have been governed by an unbroken line of conservative governors and legislatures since 1939; this is a political history probably unparalleled in the nation. The ruling Establishment is a loose-knit plutocracy of Anglo oilmen, bankers, insurance magnates, ranchers, and other businessmen.

The first governor who served the Establishment was W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel, a crooning flour salesman whose down-home style captured the public imagination. His greatest success came in inventing Communist and labor scares that benefited him politically. The next governor, Coke Stevenson, joined with President Franklin Roosevelt's enemies in the 1944 election, but this extremist rebellion by Texas Regulars failed in the face of Roosevelt's overwhelming popularity.

Governor Beauford Jester, elected in 1946, is best known for keeping Texas in the Democratic column in the face of the Dixiecrat threat in 1948. That same year "Landslide" Lyndon Johnson, with the help of votes — believed by some to be fraudulent — from deep South Texas, edged Coke Stevenson by 87 votes in a Senatorial race. Jester died in office and was replaced by Allan Shivers, a hard-line conservative who held on to the governorship for seven and a half years. Shiver's regressive taxation policies, cultivation of the red scare vote, and laxness in the face of corruption caused him to rank alongside O'Daniel as one of the men who did the most to brutalize modern Texas politics. His power collapsed in 1956 in the midst of insurance and land scandals.



Texas politics altered significantly in 1956 and 1957, as moderate Establishment Democrats, including Lyndon Johnson and Sam Rayburn, took over the state from Shivers. And a liberal Democrat, Ralph Yarborough, was elected to the U.S. Senate. The "mature" Establishment of the 1960s and 1970s seldom engages in the demagoguery common during the primitive period. But Green asserts it is still firmly in control and, despite the state's great wealth, it fails to provide the social services needed by its citizens.

GEORGE NORRIS GREEN is Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at Arlington. His articles have appeared in such journals as *Labor History*, *Florida Historical Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Mexican-American History*.

Green, George Norris. **THE ESTABLISHMENT IN TEXAS POLITICS: The Primitive Years, 1938-1957.** (Contributions in Political Science, No. 21, ISSN 0147-1066). (Westport, Conn., 1979). xiii, 306 pages. GTP/LC 78-55339. ISBN 0-313-20525-6. **\$22.50**

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(ISBN 0-313-20525-6)

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members of the McAllen Genealogical Society began a census of Hidalgo County Cemeteries as a Bicentennial Project in 1976. They worked on this project until 1980, by which time they had identified and inventoried 46 rural cemeteries.

Members of the Cemetery Committee were Joe Fallin, Ray Hunt, Wilma Kosar, Edward Miner, Dolores Rednour, Virginia G. Stinson and Dale Swartzmiller. Family members and friends have also assisted in the project.

This uncompleted project was turned over to the Hidalgo County Historical Society in 1980. At this time Fran Watt Isbell, of Mercedes, Texas took on the responsibility of its completion. Without her unrelenting persistence over the next five years this project would never have come to fruition. She was ably assisted with this project by Mrs. Goldsby Goza, also of Mercedes. These two individuals continued transcribing new ranch cemeteries which were identified after this project was turned over to them. They also returned to many of the already-trascribed cemeteries to check and expand information collected earlier.

Later both Goldsby Goza and Virginia Haynie, of Edinburg, helped document many of the Hidalgo County cemeteries through photographs and slides. In general, they took overviews of the cemeteries and photographed outstanding and unusual, though regionally typical, graves.

page two

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Please send your application along with your money (checks made payable to the "Hidalgo County Historical Society") to the following address:

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Edinburg, TX 78540-0081

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### ALL CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE

We look forward to having you along with us on this repeated offering of the South Texas Historical Museum Bus Tour.

For further information please call:

Fran Isbell	968-4533	(work)
	565-2842	(home 6-9 pm)
George Gause	381-2799	(work)
	383-0811	(home 6-9 pm)

NB: If you would like to take the SOUTH TEXAS HISTORICAL MUSEUM BUS TOUR but would prefer to do so on Sunday, 4 March, please mark below and we will let you know if we will again offer this tour on that date.

-----  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ = prefer 4 March 1984

TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BUS. PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: Check below to indicate if you want to be in the non-smoking or smoking section of the bus ( smokers will be seated in the rear of the bus).

\_\_\_\_\_ non-smoking \_\_\_\_\_ smoking (rear of the bus)

To all those who gave generously of their time and skills to fight their way through brush and rough fields and struggled with high grass and angry insects, unmapped roads and crumbling tombstones, to find and record our nearly ranch cemeteries, our heartfelt thanks.

Indexes were compiled by ??? and others. Goldsby Goza translated Spanish inscriptions. Fran Isbell edited the material and George Gause prepared this final computer-generated typescript.

The Hidalgo County Historical Society Book Sales Committee cooperated in having this book published and thereby making this material available to the public.

The Hidalgo County Historical Society

page two

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PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BUS. PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: Check below to indicate if you want to be in the non-smoking or smoking section of the bus ( smokers will be seated in the rear of the bus).

\_\_\_\_\_ non-smoking \_\_\_\_\_ smoking (rear of the bus)

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Members of the McAllen Genealogical Society undertook a census of Hidalgo County Ranch Cemeteries as a Bicentennial Project in 1976. The project was completed in 1980, by which time they had identified and inventoried 46 rural cemeteries.

Members of the Cemetery Committee were Joe Fallin, Ray Hunt, Wilma Kosar, Edward Minter<sup>3?</sup>, Dolores Rednour, Virginia G. Stinson and Dale Swartzmiller. Family members and friends have also assisted in the project.

*Insert*  
To all those who gave generously of their time and skills to fight ~~through brush and rough~~ their way through brush and rough fields, <sup>and</sup> struggled with high grass and angry insects, unmapped roads and crumbling ~~inscriptions~~ tombstones, to find and record our early ranch cemeteries, our heartfelt thanks.

Indexes were compiled by Virginia Stinson and others. Goldsby Goza translated Spanish inscriptions. Fran Isbell edited the material and Margie McCraw prepared the typescript. *Photographs were by Virginia Haynie.*

The Hidalgo County Historical Commission and the Hidalgo County Historical Society have cooperated to publish this material and make it available to the public.

*Society*  
...THE HIDALGO COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Members of the Hidalgo County Historical Society identified and inventoried — additional ranch cemeteries, making a total of — cemeteries listed.

(5)



# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Campacuas Cemetery.....	
Capote Cemetery.....	
El Desierto Cemetery.....	
Los Ebanos Cemetery.....	
Granjeno Cemetery.....	
Jackson Methodist Church Cemetery.....	
Laguna Seca Cemetery.....	
La Lomita, statue of the Virgin Mary.....	
Niño Jesús de Praga, showing lich gate and chapel.....	lych ?
Peñitas Cemetery, showing arch over entrance.....	
Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, showing bóveda.....	



page two

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## LIST OF MAPS

Hidalgo County.....

Puerto Rico-Ciprés<sup>e</sup> Area (northeast Hidalgo County).....

[list individual cemeteries]

San Manuel area (north central Hidalgo County).....

[list individual cemeteries]

Southeast Hidalgo County.....

[list individual cemeteries]

Southwest Hidalgo County.....

[list individual cemeteries]

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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page two

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# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Campacuas Cemetery.....	
Capote Cemetery.....	
El Desierto Cemetery.....	
Los Ebanos Cemetery.....	
Granjeno Cemetery.....	
Jackson Methodist church Cemetery.....	
Laguna Seca Cemetery.....	
La Lomita, statue of Virgin Mary.....	
Nino Jesus de Praga, showing lich gate and chapel.	
Penitas Cemetery, showing arch over entrance.....	
Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, showing boveda.....	

## MAPS

Hidalgo County - - - - -	
Puerto Rico-Cipres Area (northeast Hidalgo County)..	
San Manuel area (north central Hidalgo County).....	
Southeast Hidalgo County.....	
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back of book  
interspersed  
in text

→ List individual cemeteries under maps.

## GLOSSARY OF SPANISH WORDS

abuelo/a = grandfather/mother

afligidos = sorrowing

ahijado/a = adopted child, godchild

anos = years

boveda = crypt (above ground)

cuñador/a = brother/sister-in-law

D E P = descance en pa<sup>s</sup> = R I P (rest in peace)

de parte de = from, by

días = days

E P D = en pas descance = R I P (rest in peace)

edad = age

esposo/a = husband/wife

falleció = died

familiares = relatives

higastro/a = stepchild

hijo/a = child (son or daughter)

hijo/a adoptivo/a = adopted child (son or daughter)

hijo/a de crianza = foster child (son or daughter)

hnos = hermanos/as = brothers/sisters

jamás le olvidan = will never forget

meses = months

murio = died

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nacio = born

nieto/a = grandson/granddaughter

nuera = daughter-in-law

padres = parents

padrinos = godparents

papas = padres = parents

piadoso = pious, religious, merciful

político = in-law

postumo = posthumous

progenitores = parents

Q E P D = que en pas descance = R I P (rest in peace)

Rdo = recuerdo = memorial, monument, stone

sencillo homenaje<sup>e</sup> = sincere tribute (homage)

seno ≠ (ceno) = bosom

sobrino/a = nephew/niece

sueno = sleep

velar = hold wake, mourn

verno = son-in-law

viuda de = widow of

\* = Born

+ = Died

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### COMMON MISSPELLINGS

auela, avuela = abuela

belan = velan (mourn) [B and V often interchanged]

Cenobeba = Genoveva (Genevieve, Christian name)

dea = da

enriamos = enviamos

fallesieron = falleciernon

he = e, y (and)

hedad = edad (age)

hespoza = esposa (wife)

horan = oran (pray)

llacen = yacen (lie)

mihiha = mi hija (my daughter)

pas = paz (peace)

Plasido = Placido

qui = qqui (here)

R and V are often confused

seallen = se hallen (are found)

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## COMMON SPANISH CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS

### Free Translations

1. JEHOVA ES MI PASTOR Y CON EL NADA ME FALTA. The Lord is my sheperd; I shall not want.
2. RECUREDO DE SU ESPOSA E HIJOS E HIJAS. A memorial from his wife and sons and daughters.
3. HIJA, DUERME EL SUENO ETERNO MIENTRAS TUS PADRES Y HERMANOS LLORAN TU ETERNA AUSENCIA. Daughter, sleep the eternal sleep while your parents and brothers weep for your eternal absence. [Los Ebanos, No. 142]
4. SU ESPOSA E JIJOS DEDICAN ESTE RECUERDO A SU MEMORIA. His wife and children dedicate this monument to his memory. [Los Ebanos, No. 151]
5. LO HEMOS AMADO MUCHO Y NO LO DEJAREMOS HASTA QUE CON NUESTRAS LAGRIMAS Y ORACIONES LO INTRODUCAMOS EN LA CASA DE NUESTRO SENOR. We have loved him much, and will not abandon him until with our tears and prayers we present him in the house of Our Lord. [Los Ebanos, No. 160]
6. NO LLORES. YA VOY CON DIOS OS ESPERARE EN EL CIELO. JESUS MISERICORDIOSO DADLE EL DESCANSO ETERNO. Don't weep. I am going to be with God, and will await you in heaven. Merciful Jesus, give him eternal rest. [Los Ebanos, No. 162]
7. ENVIANOS DESDE EL CIELO CONSUELO Y RESIGNACION A TU ESPOSA...Y HIJOS QUE LLORAN TO AUSENCIA. Send from heaven comfort and resignation to his wife...and children who mourn his absence. [Los Ebanos, No. 178]
8. TE AUSENTASTE DEL MUNDO ES VERDAD, MAS TU PARTIDA FUE PARA ESTAR MAS CERCA DE DIOS Y VELAR POR LOS QUE TE LLORAN EN LA TIERRA. You left the world, it is true, but your departure was to be nearer God and to wait for those who mourn you on earth. [Los Ebanos, No. 297]
9. ESTIMADO EN LOS OJOS DE DIOS LA MUERTE DE LOS SANTOS. Esteemed in the eyes of God, the death of the blessed. [Los Ebanos, No. 374]
10. CON FECHA 5 DE AGOSTO DE 1876 AQUI LLACEN LAS CENISAS DE D. CRISTOVAL LEAL FALLECIO E 43 ANOS DEEDAD D DEJANDO GRATOS RECUERDOS COMO BUEN ESPOSO Y FIEL CIUDADANO. With date of August 5, 1876 here lie the ashes of Don Cristobal Lean dead at the age of 43, leaving behind kind memories as a good husband and loyal citizen. [Santa Ana, No. ]
11. EL ALMA DEL SER QUE YA NO VEMOS PERO QUE VIVE EN NUESTROS CORAZONES

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12. TE DEDICAMOS ESTE HUMILDE RECUERDO A TU MEMORIA LOS QUE TANTO TE QUISIMOS. REGAMOS DE LAGRIMA Y FLORES TO ESPULCRO ALLA EN TU TRONO RUEGA POR TUES PADRES QUE BELAN POR TI. We dedicate to you this humble memorial to your memory, we who loved you so. We water your grave with tears and flowers. There on your throne, pray for your parents who keep watch over you. [Los Ebanos, No. 379]
13. FUE UN ANGEL QUE DE CIELO DECENDIO MAS VIO QUE AQUI NO HERA EL CIELO YA SU PATRIA SE BOLVIO. She was an angel who descended from heaven, but she saw that heaven was not here, and she returned to her homeland. [Los Ebanos, No. 397]
14. LA LEY DEL SABIO ES MANANTIAL DE VIDA PARA APARTARSE DE LOS LAZOS DE LA MUERTE. The law of the wise man is the fountain of life to escape the ties [ropes] of death. [Los Ebanos, No. 433]
15. SU MUERTO FUE TRANQUILA VIENDOS EN SU DULCE SEMBALENTE EL REFLEJO DE LA SERENIDAD DE SU ALMA. Her death was peaceful, showing in her sweet face the reflection of the serenity of her soul. [Havana, No. 192]
16. BAJA ESTA MARMELEA Y SEPULCRAL MORADA YACEN LOS RESTOS DEL FINADO D. ANTONIO CANO QUE FALLECIO DEL 12 DE FEBRERO DE 1877 EN EL R. DE GUADALUPE TEXAS A LOS 65 ANOS, SIETE MESES Y VIENTENUEVA DIAS DE SU EDAD. LA ESPOSA E HIJOS DEL FINADO LE CONSAGRAN ESTA MEMORIA COMO EMACION DEL CONYUGAL Y FILIAL AMOR CON QUE VENERAN SUS CENIZAS. Under this marble and sepulchral abode lie the remains of the deceased Don Antonio Cano who died February 12, 1877 at Guadalupe Ranch, Texas, at 65 years, 7 months, and 29 days of age. The wife and children of the deceased dedicate this memorial to him as an expression of the conjugal and filial love with which they venerate his ashes. [Campacuas, No. N233]
17. MURIO TRANQUILA EN LA MANANA FRIA SIN UNA QUEJA Y LA MIRADO AL CIELO PERO EN LOS SUYOS CUANTO DESCONUELO! DESDE AQUEL TRISTE, INOLVIDABLE DIA.

SI ERA ELLA EN NUESTRO HOGAR, NUESTRA ALEGRIA DE TODOS LA VIRTUDES UN MODELO; SI ERA ELLA NUESTRO ENCANTO Y NUESTRO ANHELO PORQUE TE LA LLEVASTE MUERTE IMPIA? FALTABA ACASO EN LA CELESTE ALTURA UN ESTRELLA DE NITIDO FULOR? O UNA VIRGEN MAS CANDIDA Y MAS PURA? JUSTICIERA ES TU LEY, PERO AH! SENOR--ESTRELLA O VIRGEN TU SENTENCIA ES DURA PORQUE NOS LLENA EN ALMA DE DOLOR. She died peacefully in the cold morning without a complaint and with her eyes turned to heaven. But in her family, such desolation Since that sad, unforgettable day. She was the

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happiness in our home, a model of all the virtues. She was our  
delight and our joy. Why hast thou taken her away, cruel Death?  
Perhaps in Heaven they needed a star of great brilliance or a maiden  
most innocent and pure? Justice is Thy law, but oh! God--star or  
maiden Thy judgement is difficult because grief fills our souls. [Los  
Novillos, No. ]

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*Common Spanish Cemetery Inscriptions*  
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Free Translation of Inscriptions

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Glossary of Common Spanish Cemetery Inscriptions  
Free Translation of Inscriptions

13. FUE UN ANGEL QUE DEL CIELO DECENDIO MAS VIO QUE AQUI NO HERA EL CIELO YA SU PATRIA SE BOLVIO. She was an angel who descended from heaven, but she saw that heaven was not here, and she returned to her homeland. (Los Ebanos 397)

14. LA LEY DEL SABIO ES MANANTIAL DE VIDA PARA APARTARSE DE LOS LAZOS DE LA MUERTE. The law of the wise man is the fountain of life to escape the ties (ropes) of death. (Los Ebanos 433)

15. SU MUERTO FUE TRANQUILA VIENDOSE EN SU DULCE SEMBLANTE EL REFLEJO DE LA SERENIDAD DE SU ALMA. Her death was peaceful, showing in her sweet face the reflection of the serenity of her soul. (Havana 192)

16. BAJA ESTA MARMOLEA Y SEPULCRAL MORADA YACEN LOS RESTOS DEL FINADO D. ANTONIO CANO QUE FALLECIO EL 12 DE FEBRERO DE 1877 EN EL R. DE GUADALUPE TEXAS A LOS 65 ANOS, SIETE MESES Y VIENTENUEVE DIAS DE SU EDAD. LA ESPOSA E HIJOS DEL FINADO LE CONSAGRAN ESTA MEMORIA COMO EMACION DEL CONYUGAL Y FILIAL AMOR CON QUE VENERAN SUS CENIZAS. Under this marble and sepulchral abode lie the remains of the deceased Don Antonio Cano who died Feb. 12, 1877 at Guadalupe Ranch, Texas, at 65 years, 7 months, and 29 days of age. The wife and children of the deceased dedicate this memorial to him as an expression of the conjugal and filial love with which they venerate his ashes. (Campacuas N233)

17. MURIO TRANQUILA EN LA MANANA FRIA SIN UNA QUEJA Y LA MIRADO AL CIELO PERO EN LOS SUYOS CUANTO DESCONUELO! DESDE AQUEL TRISTE, INOLVIDABLE DIA.

SI ERA ELLA EN NUESTRO HOGAR, NUESTRA ALEGRIA DE TODOS LAS VIRTUDES UN MODELO;  
SI ERA ELLA NUESTRO ENCANTO Y NUESTRO ANHELO PORQUE TE LA LLEVASTE MUERTE IMPIA?

FALTABA ACASO EN LA CELESTE ALTURA UN ESTRELLA DE NITIDO FULOR?  
O UNA VIRGEN MAS CANDIDA Y MAS PURA?  
JUSTICIERA ES TU LEY, PERO AH!  
SEÑOR--ESTRELLA O VIRGEN  
TU SENTENCIA ES DURA  
PORQUE NOS LLENA EN ALMA DE DOLOR

She died peacefully in the cold morning  
Without a complaint and with her eyes turned to heaven  
But in her family, such desolation  
Since that sad, unforgettable day.

She was the happiness in our home,  
A model of all the virtues.  
She was our delight and our joy.  
Why hast thou taken her away, cruel Death?

Perhaps in Heaven they needed  
A star of great brilliance  
Or a maiden most innocent and pure?  
Justice is Thy law, but oh!  
God--star or maiden  
Thy judgment is difficult  
Because grief fills our souls.

(Los Novillos)

Type Spanish on one column, Eng. opposite.

Perhaps transfer to Los Novillos page

# COMMON MISSPELLINGS

auela, avuela=abuela

belan=velan (mourn) (B and V often interchanged)

Cenobeba=Genovève(Genevieve, Christian name)

dea=da

enriamos=enviamos

fallesieron=falleciernon

he=è, y (and)

hedad=edad (age)

hespoza=esposa (wife)

horan-oran (pray)

llacen=yacen (lie)

mihiha=mi hija (my daughter)

pas=paz (peace)

Plasido=~~P~~lacido

qui=aqui (here)

R and V are often confused

seallen=se hallen (are found)

## MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES IN HIDALGO COUNTY

Municipal cemeteries are not included in this tabulation. Most of these were established since the founding of Hidalgo County in 1852 and death records should be available in the county clerk's office, city offices, cemetery or funeral homes' offices. A transcription of municipal cemeteries for Hidalgo County is planned.

CITY	NAME OF CEMETERY	LOCATION
Alamo	St. Joseph's Cemetery	South Tower Road
Donna	Donna Cemetery	South Avenue between 13th and 15th Street
Edcouch	Anahuac Cemetery(Iww)	Mile 18 North and Mile 4 West
Edinburg	Brushwood Cemetery	Schunior Street, 0.25 miles east of US 281
Edinburg	County Pauper Cemetery	Tex-Mex Subdivision
Edinburg	Edinburg City Cemetery	Near Water Treatment Plant
Edinburg	Hillcrest Memorial Park	Schunior Street, 0.25 miles east of US 281
Edinburg	Negro Cemetery	Just north of Brushwood and Hillcrest Cemetery
Hargill	Hargill Cemetery	0.6 miles south of Hargill
Hidalgo	Hidalgo Cemetery	Third Street, off US 281
La Joya	La Joya Cemetery	Leo and Garza Streets, between 5th and 6th Streets
McAllen	La Piedad Cemetery	1801 Wichita Street near airport
McAllen	Roselawn Perpetual Care Burial Park	1201 South Main Street
McAllen	Temple Emanuel	South Ware Road at city limits
McAllen	Valley Memorial Gardens	Taylor Road at Mile 2 North Road
Mercedes	Bautista Cemetery	Anacuitas Street, 0.75 miles west of Texas Avenue
Mercedes	Ebony Grove	0.25 miles west of FM 491 and 1.5 miles south of Business 83
Mercedes	Emmanuel Cemetery	Anacuitas Street, 0.75 miles west of Texas Avenue
Mercedes	Our Lady of Mercy	Anacuitas Street, 0.74 miles west of Texas Avenue
Mission	Laurel Hill Cemetery	West 18th Street at North Holland Avenue
Mission	San Jose Cemetery	South Stewart Road, 0.5 miles south of Expressway 83
Pharr	Guadalupe Cemetery	West Juarez and Bell Streets
Pharr	Magic Valley Memorial Gardens	North Sugar Road, north of Nolana Loop
Pharr	Palm Valley Memorial Gardens	North Sugar Road
San Juan	San Juan City Cemetery	South I Road
Weslaco	Highland Memorial Park	South Texas Avenue and Mill 11 3/4 North Road
Weslaco	Weslaco City Cemetery	10th and Iowa Streets

page two

Priority will be given to current (1984) Hidalgo County Historical Society members. (Spouses and POSSLQs going on the tour should also be members in order to have "Priority" status.) Non-members may join the Society by including a separate check for \$4.00 per person made out to the "Hidalgo County Historical Society."

Please send your application along with your money (checks made payable to the "Hidalgo County Historical Society") to the following address:

Hidalgo County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 81  
Edinburg, TX 78540-0081

All applications must be received through the above address. Seating will be assigned in order of receipt of applications.

\*\*\*YOUR RESERVATION(S) WILL BE CONFIRMED BY PHONE\*\*\*

### ALL CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE

We look forward to having you along with us on this repeated offering of the South Texas Historical Museum Bus Tour.

For further information please call:

Fran Isbell	968-4533	(work)
	565-2842	(home 6-9 pm)
George Gause	381-2799	(work)
	383-0811	(home 6-9 pm)

NB: If you would like to take the SOUTH TEXAS HISTORICAL MUSEUM BUS TOUR but would prefer to do so on Sunday, 4 March, please mark below and we will let you know if we will again offer this tour on that date.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ = prefer 4 March 1984

TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BUS. PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: Check below to indicate if you want to be in the non-smoking or smoking section of the bus ( smokers will be seated in the rear of the bus).

\_\_\_\_\_ non-smoking

\_\_\_\_\_ smoking (rear of the bus)



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